

RESALE AGREEMENT

by and among

**Illinois Bell Telephone Company,
Indiana Bell Telephone Company Incorporated,
Michigan Bell Telephone Company,
Nevada Bell Telephone Company,
The Ohio Bell Telephone Company,
Pacific Bell Telephone Company,
The Southern New England Telephone Company
Southwestern Bell Telephone Company,
Wisconsin Bell, Inc. d/b/a Ameritech Wisconsin**

and

Midwestern Telecommunications Inc.

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**RESALE AGREEMENT
STAND-ALONE**

This Agreement under Sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the "Agreement"), is dated as of _____, 2001 and between one or more of the SBC Communications Inc.-owned ILEC's **Illinois Bell Telephone Company, Indiana Bell Telephone Company Incorporated, Michigan Bell Telephone Company, Nevada Bell Telephone Company (a NEVADA corporation), The Ohio Bell Telephone Company, Pacific Bell Telephone Company (a California corporation), The Southern New England Telephone Company (a Connecticut corporation) and Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (a Missouri corporation), and Wisconsin Bell, Inc. d/b/a Ameritech Wisconsin**, (only to the extent that such SBC ILEC(s) executes this Agreement and provides service in a state listed below) and Midwestern Telecommunications Inc. (CLEC), (an Illinois corporation), shall apply to the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the "Act"), the Parties wish to establish terms for the purchase by CLEC of certain **Illinois Bell Telephone Company, Indiana Bell Telephone Company Incorporated, Michigan Bell Telephone Company, Nevada Bell Telephone Company (a Nevada corporation), The Ohio Bell Telephone Company, Pacific Bell Telephone Company (a California corporation), The Southern New England Telephone Company (a Connecticut corporation) and Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (a Missouri corporation), and Wisconsin Bell, Inc. d/b/a Ameritech Wisconsin**, retail Telecommunications Services and certain other services for resale by CLEC to its local exchange End User(s) within the state(s) listed on page 1 in the preamble to this Agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Parties hereby agree as follows:

WHEREAS, for purposes of this Agreement, CLEC intends to operate where **Illinois Bell Telephone Company, Indiana Bell Telephone Company Incorporated, Michigan Bell Telephone Company, Nevada Bell Telephone Company (a Nevada corporation), The Ohio Bell Telephone Company, Pacific Bell Telephone Company (a California corporation), The Southern New England Telephone Company (a Connecticut corporation) and Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (a Missouri corporation), and Wisconsin Bell, Inc d/b/a Ameritech Wisconsin** are the incumbent Local Exchange Carrier(s) and CLEC, a competitive Local Exchange Carrier, has or, prior to purchasing resale services, Telecommunications Services or any other functions, facilities, products or services hereunder, will have been granted authority to provide certain local Telephone Exchange Services in the foregoing ILEC Service areas by the appropriate State Commission(s);

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Agreement sets forth the rates, terms and conditions for those services available for sale at retail to End Users that are made available by Illinois Bell Telephone Company, Indiana Bell Telephone Company Incorporated, Michigan Bell Telephone Company, Nevada Bell Telephone Company (a Nevada corporation), The Ohio Bell Telephone Company, Pacific Bell Telephone Company (a California corporation), The Southern New England Telephone Company (a Connecticut corporation) Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (a Missouri corporation), and Wisconsin Bell, Inc. d/b/a Ameritech Wisconsin to CLECs for resale.

2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 Capitalized Terms used in this Agreement shall have the respective meanings specified herein, in the definition section of each Appendix, Attachment, Exhibit or Schedule attached hereto, and/or as defined elsewhere in this Agreement.
- 2.2 GENERAL DEFINITIONS
- 2.2.1 **“A-link”** means a diverse pair of facilities connecting local end office switching centers with Signaling Transfer Points.
- 2.2.2 **“Act”** means the Communications Act of 1934 [47 U.S.C. 153(R)], as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Public Law 104-104, 110 Stat. 56 (1996) codified throughout 47 U.S.C.
- 2.2.3 **“Affiliate”** is As Defined in the Act.
- 2.2.4 **“Alternate Billing Service (ABS)”** means a service that allows End Users to bill calls to accounts that may not be associated with the originating line. There are three types of ABS calls: calling card, collect and third number billed calls.
- 2.2.5 **AM-IL** - As used herein, **AM-IL** means the applicable SBC owned ILEC doing business in Illinois.
- 2.2.6 **AM-IN** - As used herein, **AM-IN** means the applicable SBC owned ILEC doing business in Indiana.
- 2.2.7 **AM-MI** - As used herein, **AM-MI** means the applicable SBC owned doing business in Michigan.

- 2.2.8 **AM-OH** - As used herein, **AM-OH** means the applicable SBC owned ILEC doing business in Ohio.
- 2.2.9 **AM-WI** - As used herein, **AM-WI** means the applicable SBC owned ILEC doing business in Wisconsin.
- 2.2.10 **“Applicable Law”** means all laws, statutes, common law, regulations, ordinances, codes, rules, guidelines, orders, permits, tariffs and approvals, including those relating to the environment or health and safety, of any Governmental Authority that apply to the Parties or the subject matter of this Agreement.
- 2.2.11 **“As Defined in the Act”** means as specifically defined by the Act.
- 2.2.12 **“As Described in the Act”** means as described in or required by the Act.
- 2.2.13 **“Automated Message Accounting” (AMA)** is a structure inherent in switch technology that initially records Telecommunication message information. AMA format is contained in the Automated Message Accounting document published by Telcordia (formerly known as Bellcore) as GR-1100-CORE, which defines and amends the industry standard for message recording.
- 2.2.14 **“Billed Number Screening” (BNS)** means a validation of toll billing exception (TBE) data and performance of public telephone checks; i.e., determining if a billed line is a public (including those classified as semi-public) telephone number.
- 2.2.15 **“Business Day”** means Monday through Friday, excluding holidays on which the applicable SBC ILEC does not provision new retail services and products.
- 2.2.16 **“Busy Line Verification” (BLV)** means a service whereby an End User requests an operator to confirm the busy status of a line.
- 2.2.17 **“CABS”** means the Carrier Access Billing System.
- 2.2.18 **“Calling Card Service”** means a service that enables a calling End User to bill a telephone call to a calling card number with or without the help of an operator.
- 2.2.19 **“Calling Name Delivery Service (CNDS)”** means a service that enables a terminating End User to identify the calling party by a displayed name before a call is answered. The calling party’s name is retrieved from a Calling Name

Database and delivered to the End User's premise between the first and second ring for display on compatible End User premises equipment.

- 2.2.20 **“Calling Name Information”** means a Telecommunications Carrier's records of its End Users names associated with one or more assigned ten-digit telephone numbers.
- 2.2.21 **“Calling Number Delivery”** means a feature that enables an End User to view the directory number of the calling party on a display unit.
- 2.2.22 **“Calling Party Number” (CPN)** means a Signaling System 7 “SS7” parameter whereby the ten (10) digit number of the calling Party is forwarded from the End Office.
- 2.2.23 **“Centralized Message Distribution System” (CMDS)** means the transport system that LECs use to exchange outcollect and Carrier Access Billing System “CABS” access messages among each other and other Parties connected to CMDS.
- 2.2.24 **“CNAM Query”** means a LIDB Service Application that allows CLEC to query a Calling Name Database for Calling Name Information in order to deliver that information to CLEC's local CNDS subscribers.
- 2.2.25 **“CNAM Query Rate”** means a rate that applies to each CNAM Query received at the SCP where the Calling Name Database resides.
- 2.2.26 **“Commission”** means the applicable State agency with regulatory authority over Telecommunications. Unless the context otherwise requires, use of the term **"Commissions"** means all of the thirteen agencies listed in this Section. The following is a list of the appropriate State agencies:
- 2.2.26.1 **the Arkansas Public Service Commission (AR-PSC);**
 - 2.2.26.2 **the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California (CA-PUC);**
 - 2.2.26.3 **the Connecticut Department of Public Utility Control (CT-DPUC);**
 - 2.2.26.4 **the Illinois Commerce Commission (IL-CC);**
 - 2.2.26.5 **the Indiana Utilities Regulatory Commission (IN-URC);**
 - 2.2.26.6 **the Kansas Corporation Commission (KS-CC);**
 - 2.2.26.7 **the Michigan Public Service Commission (MI-PSC);**
 - 2.2.26.8 **the Missouri Public Service Commission (MO-PSC);**
 - 2.2.26.9 **the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (NV-PUC);**

- 2.2.26.10 **the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUC-OH);**
- 2.2.26.11 **the Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OK-CC);**
- 2.2.26.12 **the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC-TX); and**
- 2.2.26.13 **the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin**

2.2.27 **“Consequential Damages”** means Losses claimed to have resulted from any indirect, incidental, reliance, special, consequential, punitive, exemplary, multiple or any other Loss, including damages claimed to have resulted from harm to business, loss of anticipated revenues, savings, or profits, or other economic Loss claimed to have been suffered not measured by the prevailing Party's actual damages, and regardless of whether the Parties knew or had been advised of the possibility that such damages could result in connection with or arising from anything said, omitted, or done hereunder or related hereto, including willful acts or omissions.

2.2.28 **“Customer Usage Data”** means the Telecommunications Services usage data of a CLEC End User measured in minutes, sub-minute increments, message units, or otherwise, that is recorded by **SBC-13STATE** and forwarded to CLEC.

2.2.29 **“Custom Local Area Signaling Service Features” (CLASS Features)** means certain Common Channel Signaling based features available to End Users, including: Automatic Call Back; Call Trace; Distinctive Ringing/Call Waiting; Selective Call Forward; and Selective Call Rejection.

2.2.30 **“End Users”** means a third-party residence or business that subscribes to Telecommunications Services provided by any of the Parties at retail. As used herein, the term "End Users" does not include any of the Parties to this Agreement with respect to any item or service obtained under this Agreement.

2.2.31 **“Customer Name and Address Information” (CNA)** means the name, service address and telephone numbers of a Party's End Users for a particular Exchange Area. CNA includes nonpublished listings, coin telephone information and published listings.

2.2.32 **“Delaying Event”** means (a) any failure of a Party to perform any of its obligations set forth in this Agreement, caused in whole or in part by:

- 2.2.32.1 the failure of the other Party to perform any of its obligations set forth in this Agreement, including but not limited to a Party's failure to provide the other Party with accurate and complete Service Orders;

2.2.32.2 any delay, act or failure to act by the other Party or its End User, agent or subcontractor; or

2.2.32.3 any Force Majeure Event.

2.2.33 **“Dialing Parity”** is As Defined in the Act. As used in this Agreement, Dialing Parity refers to both Local Dialing Parity and Toll Dialing Parity.

2.2.34 **“Digital Signal Level”** is one of several transmission rates in the time-division multiplex hierarchy.

2.2.34.1 **“Digital Signal Level 0” (DS-0)** is the 64 Kbps zero-level signal in the time-division multiplex hierarchy.

2.2.34.2 **“Digital Signal Level 1” (DS-1)** is the 1.544 Mbps first-level signal in the time-division multiplex hierarchy.

2.2.34.3 **“Digital Signal Level 3” (DS-3)** is the 44.736 Mbps third-level signal in the time-division multiplex hierarchy.

2.2.34.4 **“Digital Subscriber Line” (DSL)** is as defined in the applicable Appendix DSL and/or the applicable tariff, as appropriate.

2.2.35 **“Electronic File Transfer”** is any system or process that utilizes an electronic format and protocol to send or receive data files.

2.2.36 **“Enhanced Service Provider” (ESP)** is a provider of enhanced services as those services are defined in 47 CFR Section 64.702.

2.2.37 **“Exchange Access”** is As Defined in the Act.

2.2.38 **“Exchange Area”** means an area, defined by the Commission, for which a distinct local rate schedule is in effect.

2.2.39 **“Exchange Message Interface” (EMI)** (formerly Exchange Message Record - EMR) is the standard used for exchange of Telecommunications message information among Telecommunications Carriers for billable, non-billable, sample, settlement and study data. EMI format is contained in Telcordia Practice BR-010-200-010, CRIS Exchange Message Record.

2.2.40 **“Exchange Service”** means Telephone Exchange Service, As Defined in the Act.

- 2.2.41 **“FCC”** means the Federal Communications Commission.
- 2.2.42 **“Foreign Exchange” (FX)** means a service whereby calls either originated by or delivered to a customer who has purchased FX service from the state or interstate tariffs of either Party. FX also includes, but is not limited to, FX-like services provided by either Party where calls are originated from and/or delivered to numbers which are assigned to a Rate Center within one local calling area but where the Party receiving the call is physically located outside of that local calling area. FX service can be either interLATA or intraLATA. InterLATA FX, where the originating and receiving parties are physically located in different LATAs, is considered equivalent to FGA and the intercarrier compensation mechanism is the same as FGA. IntraLATA FX, when provided by two or more local exchange carriers “LECs”, is considered a jointly provided service and meet-point billed by those providing it utilizing a mutually agreed to meet-point billing, or meet-point billing like procedure.
- 2.2.43 **“Governmental Authority”** means any federal, state, local, foreign, or international court, government, department, commission, board, bureau, agency, official, or other regulatory, administrative, legislative, or judicial authority with jurisdiction over the subject matter at issue.
- 2.2.44 **“Group Record”** means information in LIDB and/or the LIDB administrative system that is common to all telephone numbers in an NPA-NXX or all Special Billing Numbers in an NPA-0/1XX.
- 2.2.45 **“Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier” (ILEC)** is As Defined in the Act.
- 2.2.46 **“Intellectual Property”** means copyrights, patents, trademarks, trade-secrets, mask works and all other intellectual property rights.
- 2.2.47 **“Integrated Services Digital Network” (ISDN)** means a switched network service that provides end-to-end digital connectivity for the simultaneous transmission of voice and data. Basic Rate Interface-ISDN (BRI-ISDN) provides for a digital transmission of two 64 Kbps bearer channels and one 16 Kbps data channel (2B+D).
- 2.2.48 **“Interexchange Carrier” (IXC)** means a carrier that provides, directly or indirectly, interLATA or intraLATA Telephone Toll Services.
- 2.2.49 **“InterLATA”** is As Defined in the Act.

- 2.2.50 **“Internet Service Provider” (ISP)** is an Enhanced Service Provider that provides Internet Services, and is defined in paragraph 341 of the FCC’s First Report and Order in CC Docket No.97-158.
- 2.2.51 **“IntraLATA Toll Traffic”** means the IntraLATA traffic between two locations within one LATA where one of the locations lies outside of the normal local calling area as defined by the applicable Commission.
- 2.2.52 **“LIDB Editor”** means a SCP tool that bypasses the LIDB administrative system and provides emergency access to LIDB for data administration.
- 2.2.53 **“Line Information Data Base” (LIDB)** means a transaction-oriented database system that functions as a centralized repository for data storage and retrieval. LIDB is accessible through CCS networks. LIDB contains records associated with End User line numbers and special billing numbers. LIDB accepts queries from other network elements and provides return result, return error, and return reject responses as appropriate. Examples of information that Data Owners might store in LIDB and in their Line Records are: ABS Validation Data, Originating Line Number Screening (OLNS) data, ZIP Code data, and Calling Name Information.
- 2.2.54 **“LIDB Service Applications”** means the query types accepted for access to LIDB information.
- 2.2.55 **“Line Record”** means information in LIDB and/or the LIDB administrative system that is specific to a single telephone number or Special Billing Number.
- 2.2.56 **“Local Access Transport Area” (LATA)** is As Defined in the Act.
- 2.2.57 **“Local Exchange Carrier” (LEC)** is As Defined in the Act.
- 2.2.58 **“Local Number Portability”** means the ability of users of Telecommunications Services to retain, at the same location, the presence of a previously existing telephone number(s).
- 2.2.59 **“Local Service Provider” (LSP)** is the LEC that provides retail local Exchange Service to an End User. The LSP may or may not provide any physical network components to support the provision of that End User’s service.

- 2.2.60 **“Loss” or “Losses”** means any and all losses, costs (including court costs), claims, damages (including fines, penalties, and criminal or civil judgments and settlements), injuries, liabilities and expenses (including attorneys’ fees).
- 2.2.61 **“North American Numbering Plan” (NANP)** A numbering architecture in which every station in the NANP Area is identified by a unique ten-digit address consisting of a three-digit NPA code, a three digit central office code of the form NXX, and a four-digit line number of the form XXXX.
- 2.2.62 **“Numbering Plan Area” (NPA)** also called area code. An NPA is the 3-digit code that occupies the A, B, C positions in the 10-digit NANP format that applies throughout the NANP Area. NPAs are of the form NXX, where N represents the digits 2-9 and X represents any digit 0-9. In the NANP, NPAs are classified as either geographic or non-geographic. a) Geographic NPAs are NPAs which correspond to discrete geographic areas within the NANP Area. b) Non-geographic NPAs are NPAs that do not correspond to discrete geographic areas, but which are instead assigned for services with attributes, functionalities, or requirements that transcend specific geographic boundaries. The common examples are NPAs in the N00 format, e.g., 800.
- 2.2.63 **“Number Portability”** is As Defined in the Act.
- 2.2.64 **“NXX” or “Central Office Code”** is the three-digit switch entity indicator that is defined by the fourth through sixth digits of a 10-digit telephone number within the NANP. Each NXX Code contains 10,000 station numbers.
- 2.2.65 **“Ordering and Billing Forum” (OBF)** is a forum comprised of local telephone companies and inter-exchange carriers whose responsibility is to create and document Telecommunication industry guidelines and standards.
- 2.2.66 **“Party”** means either CLEC or **SBC** use of the term “Party” includes each of the ILECs that is a party to this Agreement. **“Parties”** means both CLEC and **SBC**; use of the term **“Parties”** includes each of the ILECs that is a party to this Agreement.
- 2.2.67 **“Permanent Number Portability” (PNP)** is a long term method of providing LNP using LRN.
- 2.2.68 **“Reference of Calls”** refers to a process by which calls are routed to an announcement that states the new telephone number of a Customer.

- 2.2.69 **SBC Communications Inc. (SBC)** means the holding company which owns the following ILECs: Illinois Bell Telephone Company, Indiana Bell Telephone Company Incorporated, Michigan Bell Telephone Company, Nevada Bell, The Ohio Bell Telephone Company, Pacific Bell Telephone Company, The Southern New England Telephone Company, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, and/or Wisconsin Bell, Inc. d/b/a Ameritech Wisconsin.
- 2.2.70 **SBC-AMERITECH** - As used herein, **SBC-AMERITECH** means the applicable SBC owned ILEC(s) doing business in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin.
- 2.2.71 **SBC-7STATE** - As used herein, **SBC-7STATE** means the applicable SBC owned ILEC(s) doing business in Arkansas, California, Kansas, Missouri, Nevada, Oklahoma, and Texas.
- 2.2.72 **SBC-8STATE** - As used herein, **SBC-8STATE** means the applicable SBC owned ILEC(s) doing business in Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Kansas, Missouri, Nevada, Oklahoma, and Texas.
- 2.2.73 **SBC-10STATE** - As used herein, **SBC-10STATE** means an the applicable SBC owned ILEC(s) doing business in Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wisconsin.
- 2.2.74 **SBC-12STATE** - As used herein, **SBC-12STATE** means the applicable SBC owned ILEC(s) doing business in Arkansas, California, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wisconsin.
- 2.2.75 **SBC-13STATE** - As used herein, **SBC-13STATE** means the applicable SBC owned ILEC(s) doing business in Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wisconsin.
- 2.2.76 **“Sleuth”** means an off-line administration system that monitors suspected occurrences of ABS-related fraud.
- 2.2.77 **“Special Billing Number” SBN** means a Line Record in LIDB that is based on an NXX-0/1XX numbering format. NXX-0/1XX numbering formats are similar to NPA-NXX formats except that the fourth digit of an SBN is either a zero (0) or a one (1).
- 2.2.78 **“State Abbreviation”** means the following:

- 2.2.78.1 “AR” means Arkansas
- 2.2.78.2 “CA” means California
- 2.2.78.3 “CT” means Connecticut
- 2.2.78.4 “IL” means Illinois
- 2.2.78.5 “IN” means Indiana
- 2.2.78.6 “KS” means Kansas
- 2.2.78.7 “MI” means Michigan
- 2.2.78.8 “MO” means Missouri
- 2.2.78.9 “NV” means Nevada
- 2.2.78.10 “OH” means Ohio
- 2.2.78.11 “OK” means Oklahoma
- 2.2.78.12 “TX” means Texas
- 2.2.78.13 “WI” means Wisconsin

2.2.79 **SWBT-AR** - As used herein, **SWBT-AR** means the applicable SBC owned ILEC doing business in Arkansas.

2.2.80 **SWBT-KS** - As used herein, **SWBT-KS** means the applicable SBC owned ILEC doing business in Kansas.

2.2.81 **SWBT-MO** - As used herein, **SWBT-MO** means the applicable SBC owned ILEC doing business in Missouri.

2.2.82 **SWBT-OK** - As used herein, **SWBT-OK** means the applicable SBC owned ILEC doing business in Oklahoma.

2.2.83 **SWBT-TX** - As used herein, **SWBT-TX** means the applicable SBC owned ILEC doing business in Texas.

2.2.84 **“Tape Load Facility”** means data entry points at the LIDB administrative system and/or the SCPs where LIDB resides.

2.2.85 **“Telecommunications”** is As Defined in the Act.

2.2.86 **“Telecommunications Carrier”** is As Defined in the Act.

2.2.87 **“Telecommunications Service”** is As Defined in the Act.

2.2.88 **“Telephone Exchange Service”** is As Defined in the Act.

2.2.89 **“Telephone Toll Service”** is As Defined in the Act.

2.2.90 **“Toll Billing Exception Service” (TBE)** means a service that allows End Users to restrict third number billing or collect calls to their lines.

2.2.91 **“Toll Free Service”** is service provided with any dialing sequence that invokes toll-free, 800-like, service processing, for example for illustration only, 800 or 800-like services. Toll Free Service includes but is not limited to calls placed to 800/888 NPA Service Access Codes (SAC).

2.2.92 **“Translation Type”** means a code in the Signaling Connection Control Part (SCCP) of the SS7 signaling message. Signal Transfer Points (STPs) use Translation Types to identify the routing table used to route a LIDB query. All LIDB queries that use the same Translation Type are routed to the same LIDB for a particular Line Record or, prior to number portability, for a particular NPA-NXX.

2.3 DEFINITIONS APPLICABLE **SBC-12STATE** ONLY

2.3.1 **“Permanent Number Portability” (PNP)** is a database method of providing LNP that is consistent with the Act and complies with the long-term LNP performance criteria set forth in 47 C.F.R. Section 52.3(a).

2.3.2 **“Plain Old Telephone Service” (POTS)** means telephone service for the transmission of human speech.

2.4 DEFINITIONS APPLICABLE TO **SBC-8STATE** ONLY

2.4.1 **“Accessible Letters”** are correspondence used to communicate pertinent information regarding **SBC-8STATE** to the client/End User community.

2.5 DEFINITIONS APPLICABLE TO **SBC-SWBT** ONLY

2.5.1 **“Line Validation Administration System” (LVAS)** means the LIDB administrative system for **SBC-SWBT**.

2.6 DEFINITIONS APPLICABLE TO **SNET ONLY**

2.6.1 **“800 Series”** is a Telecommunications Service for business or residence that allows calls to be made to a specific location at no charge to the calling party. Use of the “800” Service Access Code (e.g., 800, 888) denotes calls that are to be billed to the receiving party. A computer database in the provider’s network translates the 800 series number into a conventional 7 or 10 digit phone number for network switching and routing.

2.6.2 **“Database Administrative Service LIDB Operating Guidelines” (Operating Guidelines)** means the document developed by **SNET** that provides detailed instructions as to the working parameters of **SNET**’s provision of the LIDB Administrative System to CLEC, as may be updated by **SNET** from time to time. **SNET** shall provide such Operating Guidelines to CLEC upon execution of this Agreement.

2.6.3 **“LIDB/AS”** means the LIDB administrative system for **SNET**.

2.7 DEFINITIONS APPLICABLE TO **SBC-AMERITECH** ONLY

2.7.1 **“Automatic Route Selection” or “ARS”** means a service feature associated with a specific grouping of lines that provides for automatic selection of the least expensive or most appropriate transmission facility for each call based on criteria programmed into the system.

2.7.2 **“Enhanced LECLink”** is a customer access service to the national distribution of billing records via Telcordia’s Centralized Message Distribution System (CMDS).

2.8 DEFINITIONS APPLICABLE TO **SNET** and **SBC-AMERITECH** ONLY

2.8.1 **“Centralized AMA” (CAMA)** is an arrangement where the AMA equipment is centralized in, for example, a Tandem and is used by offices that do not have LAMA (Local AMA). The End Office Switch must send ANI digits to the CAMA office for billing a calling subscriber.

3. INTERPRETATION, CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY

3.1 Definitions

3.1.1 For purposes of this Agreement, certain terms have been defined in this Agreement to encompass meanings that may differ from, or be in addition to, the normal connotation of the defined word. Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, any term defined or used in the singular will include the plural. Whenever the context may require, any pronoun shall include the corresponding masculine, feminine and neuter forms. The words “include,” “includes” and “including” shall be deemed to be followed by the phrase “without limitation” and/or “but not limited to”. The words "will" and "shall" are used interchangeably throughout this Agreement and the use of either connotes a mandatory requirement. The use of one or the other will not mean a different

degree of right or obligation for either Party. A defined word intended to convey its special meaning is capitalized when used. Other terms that are capitalized and not defined in this Agreement will have the meaning in the Act, or in the absence of their inclusion in the Act, their customary usage in the Telecommunications industry as of the Effective Date.

3.2 Headings Not Controlling

3.2.1 The headings and numbering of Sections, Parts, Appendices Schedules and Exhibits to this Agreement are for convenience only and shall not be construed to define or limit any of the terms herein or affect the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement.

3.2.2 This Agreement incorporates several Appendices which, together with their associated Attachments, Exhibits, Schedules and Addenda, constitute the entire Agreement between the Parties. In order to facilitate use and comprehension of the Agreement, the Appendices may be grouped under broad headings. It is understood that these groupings are for convenience of reference only, and are not intended to limit the applicability that any particular appendix, attachment, exhibit, schedule or addenda may otherwise have.

3.3 Referenced Documents

3.3.1 Unless the context shall otherwise specifically require, and subject to Section 34, whenever any provision of this Agreement refers to a technical reference, technical publication, CLEC Practice, **SBC-13STATE** Practice, any publication of telecommunications industry administrative or technical standards, or any other document specifically incorporated into this Agreement (collectively, a “Referenced Instrument”), it will be deemed to be a reference to the then-current version or edition (including any amendments, supplements, addenda, or successors) of each Referenced Instrument that is in effect, and will include the then-current version or edition (including any amendments, supplements, addenda, or successors) of any other Referenced Instrument incorporated by reference therein.

3.4 References

3.4.1 References herein to Sections, Paragraphs, Exhibits, Parts, Schedules, and Appendices shall be deemed to be references to Sections, Paragraphs and Parts of, and Exhibits, Schedules and Appendices to, this Agreement unless the context shall otherwise require.

3.5 Tariff References

- 3.5.1 Wherever any Commission approved tariff provision or rate is cited or quoted herein, it is understood that said cite encompasses any revisions or modifications to said tariff.

- 3.5.2 Wherever any Commission approved tariff provision or rate is incorporated, cited or quoted herein, it is understood that said incorporation or reference applies only to the entity within the state whose Commission approved that tariff.

3.6 Conflict in Provisions

- 3.6.1 In the event of a conflict between the provisions of this Agreement and the Act, the provisions of the Act shall govern.
- 3.6.2 If any definitions, terms or conditions in any given Appendix, Attachment, Exhibit, Schedule or Addenda differ from those contained in this Agreement, the definitions, terms or conditions contained in the Appendix, Attachment, Exhibit, Schedule or Addenda will supersede those contained in this Agreement, but only in regard to the services or activities listed in that particular Appendix, Attachment, Exhibit, Schedule or Addenda. In particular, if an Appendix contains a Term length that differs from the Term length in this Agreement, the Term length of that Appendix will control the length of time that services or activities are to occur under that Appendix, but will not affect the Term length of the remainder of this Agreement.
- 3.6.3 In the event of a conflict between any provision in this Agreement and any provision in the DPUC-ordered tariffs covering the services that are the subject of this Agreement with **SNET**, such DPUC-ordered tariffs will prevail.

3.7 Joint Work Product

- 3.7.1 This Agreement is the joint work product of the Parties and has been negotiated by the Parties and their respective counsel and shall be fairly interpreted in accordance with its terms and, in the event of any ambiguities, no inferences shall be drawn against either Party.

3.8 Severability

- 3.8.1 If any provision of this Agreement is rejected or held to be illegal, invalid or unenforceable, each Party agrees that such provision shall be enforced to the maximum extent permissible so as to effect the intent of the Parties, and the validity, legality and enforceability of the remaining provisions of this Agreement shall not in any way be affected or impaired thereby. If necessary to effect the intent of the Parties, the Parties shall negotiate in good faith to amend this Agreement to replace the unenforceable language with enforceable language that reflects such intent as closely as possible. The Parties negotiated the terms

and conditions of this Agreement as a total arrangement and it is intended to be nonseverable.

3.9 Non-Voluntary Provisions

3.9.1 This Agreement incorporates certain rates, terms and conditions that were not voluntarily negotiated by **SBC-13STATE**, but instead resulted from determinations made in arbitration under Section 252 of the Act or from other requirements of regulatory agencies or state law (individually and collectively, a “Non-Voluntary Arrangement”). **SBC-13STATE** has identified some, but not all, of the Non-Voluntary Arrangements contained in this Agreement, by designating such provisions with asterisks. If any Non-Voluntary Arrangement is modified as a result of any order or finding by the FCC, the appropriate Commission or a court of competent jurisdiction, any Party may, by providing written notice to the other Party, require that any affected Non-Voluntary Arrangement (and any related rates, terms and conditions) be deleted or renegotiated, as applicable, in good faith and this Agreement amended accordingly. If such modifications to this Agreement are not executed within sixty (60) days after the date of such notice, a Party may pursue its rights under Section 19. Within thirty (30) days following receipt of a written request from CLEC, **SBC-13STATE** will identify any Non-Voluntary Arrangements that may not otherwise be designated such in this Agreement.

3.9.2 The Parties acknowledge that the Non-Voluntary Arrangements contained in this Agreement shall not be available in any state other than the state that originally imposed/required such Non-Voluntary Arrangement. By way of example only, the Parties acknowledge that the PUCO’s imposition in Ohio of the Minimum Telephone Service Standards (and all terms and conditions relating thereto) shall not apply in or be “portable to” any state other than Ohio.

3.10 State-Specific Rates, Terms and Conditions

3.10.1 For ease of administration, this multi-state Agreement contains certain specified rates, terms and conditions that apply only in a designated state. To the extent that this Agreement contains specified rates, terms and conditions which apply only in a given state, such rates, terms and conditions shall not apply and shall have no effect in any other state(s) to which this Agreement is submitted for approval under Section 252(e) of the Act.

3.10.2 **Successor Rates.** Certain of the rates, prices and charges set forth in the applicable Appendix Pricing have been established by the appropriate Commissions in cost proceedings or dockets initiated under or pursuant to the Act. If during the Term that Commission or the FCC changes a rate, price or charge in an order or docket that applies to any of the services available hereunder, the Parties agree to amend this Agreement to incorporate such new rates, prices and charges, with such rates, prices and charges to be effective as of the date specified in such order or docket (including giving effect to any retroactive application, if so ordered). If either Party refuses to execute an amendment to this Agreement within sixty (60) days after the date of such order or docket, the other Party may pursue its rights under Section 15.

3.11 Scope of Obligations

3.11.1 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, **SBC-13STATE**'s obligations under this Agreement shall apply only to:

3.11.1.1 the specific operating area(s) or portion thereof in which **SBC-13STATE** is then deemed to be the ILEC under the Act (the "ILEC Territory"), and

3.11.1.2 assets that **SBC-13STATE** owns or leases and which are used in connection with **SBC-13STATE**'s provision to CLEC of any services for resale provided or contemplated under this Agreement, the Act or any tariff or ancillary agreement referenced herein (individually and collectively, the "ILEC Assets").

4. DESCRIPTION AND CHARGES FOR SERVICES

4.1 A list of Telecommunications Services currently available for resale at the wholesale discount rate set by the appropriate Commission is set forth in Appendix Pricing. Except as otherwise expressed herein, consistent with **SBC-13STATE**'s obligation under § 251(c)(4)(A) of the Act and any other applicable limitations or restrictions, CLEC may resell other Telecommunications Services offered at retail by **SBC-13STATE** at the discount set forth in the Appendix Pricing.

4.1.1 This section applies only to **SWBT-KS**:

4.1.1.1 CLEC shall select either (1) a uniform rate structure or (2) a three-tier discount structure based on lines, vertical features and toll. The three-tier discount structure will be made available upon written request from CLEC negotiating an interconnection agreement with SWBT.

SWBT will respond within 30 days of the written request to initiate a joint work effort with the CLEC to decide a mutually agreeable implementation date not to exceed six months.

4.2 **SBC-13STATE** will offer products and services to CLEC for resale pursuant to relevant decisions of the appropriate Commission.

4.3 Telecommunications Services will be offered by **SBC-13STATE** to CLEC for resale on terms and conditions that are reasonable and nondiscriminatory.

5. GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

5.1 At all times during the Term, each Party shall keep and maintain in force at its own expense the following minimum insurance coverages and limits and any additional insurance and/or bonds required by Applicable Law:

5.1.1 Commercial General Liability insurance with minimum limits of: \$1,000,000 General Aggregate Limit; \$500,000 each occurrence sub-limit for all bodily injury or property damage incurred in any one occurrence; and \$500,000 each occurrence sub-limit for Personal Injury and Advertising. The other Party must be named as an Additional Insured on the Commercial General Liability policy.

5.1.2 Each Party shall require each of its subcontractors that performs any of that Party's obligations under this Agreement to maintain in force the insurance coverage and limits required in Section 5.1.

5.1.3 The Parties agree that companies affording the insurance coverage required under Section 5.1 shall have a rating of B+ or better and a Financial Size Category rating of VII or better, as rated in the A.M. Best Key Rating Guide for Property and Casualty Insurance Companies. Upon request from the other Party, each Party shall provide to the other Party evidence of such insurance coverage.

5.1.4 Each Party agrees to provide the other Party with at least thirty (30) days advance written notice of cancellation, material reduction or non-renewal of any of the insurance coverage required herein.

5.1.5 Each Party agrees to accept the other Party's program of self-insurance in lieu of insurance coverage if certain requirements are met. These requirements are agreed as follows:

5.1.5.1 The Party desiring to satisfy its general liability obligations through self-insurance must provide reasonably acceptable evidence to the other

Party that it maintains at least an investment grade (e.g., B+ or higher) debt or credit rating as determined by a nationally recognized debt or credit rating agency such as Moody's, Standard and Poor's or Duff and Phelps or that such self-insurance obligations are fully supported, in a manner reasonably acceptable to the other Party, by a bond, letter of credit, guaranty or other security payable by an entity (which may include a corporate affiliate) domiciled in the United States that maintains such debt or credit rating.

5.1.6 This Section 5.1 is a general statement of insurance requirements and shall be in addition to any specific requirement of insurance referenced elsewhere in this Agreement or a Referenced Instrument

5.2 The Parties acknowledge that calls will be placed to local service accounts of Third Parties. To ensure that these calls are properly accounted for and billed to the appropriate local service account of such Third Parties, the Parties have established clearinghouse procedures to accomplish these objectives by various appendices to this Agreement.

5.3 In the event that CLEC makes any corporate name change (including addition or deletion of a d/b/a), change in OCN/AECN, or makes or accepts a transfer or assignment of interconnection trunks or facilities (including leased facilities), or a change in any other CLEC identifier (collectively, a "CLEC Change"), CLEC shall submit written notice to **SBC-13STATE** within thirty (30) days of the first action taken to implement such CLEC Change. Within thirty (30) days following receipt of that notice, the Parties shall negotiate rates to compensate **SBC-13STATE** for the costs to be incurred by **SBC-13STATE** to make the CLEC Change to the applicable **SBC-13STATE** databases, systems, records and/or recording announcement(s) for CLEC branded/repair calls. In addition, CLEC shall compensate **SBC-13STATE** for any service order charges and/or service request charges associated with such CLEC Change. **SBC-13STATE**'s agreement to implement a CLEC Change is conditioned upon CLEC's agreement to pay all reasonable charges billed to CLEC for such CLEC Change.

5.4 Each Party shall be responsible for labor relations with its own employees. Each Party agrees to notify the other Party as soon as practicable whenever such Party has knowledge that a labor dispute concerning its employees is delaying or threatens to delay such Party's timely performance of its obligations under this Agreement and shall endeavor to minimize impairment of service to the other Party (for example, by using its management personnel to perform work or by other means) in the event of a labor dispute to the extent permitted by Applicable Law.

- 5.5 Each Party shall act in good faith in its performance under this Agreement and, in each case in which a Party's consent or agreement is required or requested hereunder, such Party shall not unreasonably withhold or delay such consent or agreement.

6. EFFECTIVE DATE, TERM, AND TERMINATION

- 6.1 This Effective Date of this Agreement shall be ten (10) calendar days after the Commission approves this Agreement under Section 252(e) of the Act or, absent such Commission approval, the date this Agreement is deemed approved under Section 252(e)(4) of the Act.
- 6.2 The term of this Agreement shall commence upon the Effective Date of this Agreement and shall expire on May 6, 2002 (the "**Term**"). Absent the receipt by one Party of written notice from the other Party at least within 180 days prior to the expiration of the Term to the effect that such Party does not intend to extend the Term, this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect on and after the expiration of the Term until terminated by either Party pursuant to Section 6.3 or 6.4.
- 6.3 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, either Party may terminate this Agreement and the provision of any Interconnection, Resale Services, Network Elements, functions, facilities, products or services provided pursuant to this Agreement, at the sole discretion of the terminating Party, in the event that the other Party fails to perform a material obligation or breaches a material term of this Agreement and the other Party fails to cure such nonperformance or breach within forty-five (45) calendar days after written notice thereof. Any termination of this Agreement pursuant to this Section 6.3 shall take effect immediately upon delivery of written notice to the other Party that it failed to cure such nonperformance or breach within forty-five (45) calendar days after written notice thereof.
- 6.4 If pursuant to Section 6.2, this Agreement continues in full force and effect after the expiration of the Term, either Party may terminate this Agreement after delivering written notice to the other Party of its intention to terminate this Agreement, subject to Sections 6.5 and 6.6. Neither Party shall have any liability to the other Party for termination of this Agreement pursuant to this Section 6.4 other than its obligations under Sections 6.5 and 6.6.

- 6.5 Upon termination or expiration of this Agreement in accordance with Sections 6.2, 6.3 or 6.4:
- 6.5.1 Each Party shall continue to comply with its obligations set forth in Section 46; and
 - 6.5.2 Each Party shall promptly pay all amounts owed under this Agreement or place any Disputed Amounts into an escrow account that complies with Section 9.3 hereof;
 - 6.5.3 Each Party's confidentiality obligations shall survive; and
 - 6.5.4 Each Party's indemnification obligations shall survive.
- 6.6 If either Party serves notice of expiration pursuant to Section 6.2 or Section 6.4, CLEC shall have ten (10) days to provide **SBC-13STATE** written confirmation if CLEC wishes to pursue a successor agreement with **SBC-13STATE** or terminate its agreement. CLEC shall identify the action to be taken on each applicable (13) state(s). If CLEC wishes to pursue a successor agreement with **SBC-13STATE**, CLEC shall attach to its written confirmation or notice of expiration/termination, as applicable, a written request to commence negotiations with **SBC-13STATE** under Sections 251/252 of the Act and identify each of the state(s) the successor agreement will cover. Upon receipt of CLEC's Section 252(a)(1) request, the Parties shall commence good faith negotiations on a successor agreement
- 6.7 The rates, terms and conditions of this Agreement shall continue in full force and effect until the earlier of (i) the effective date of its successor agreement, whether such successor agreement is established via negotiation, arbitration or pursuant to Section 252(i) of the Act; or (ii) the date that is ten (10) months after the date on which **SBC-13STATE** received CLEC's Section 252(a)(1) request; provided, however, when a successor agreement becomes effective, the terms, rates and charges of such successor Agreement shall apply retroactively back to the date this Agreement is terminated or expires, whichever is later, and that the retro-active true-up shall be completed within 90 days following the effective date of such successor Agreement.
- 6.8 If at any time during the Section 252(a)(1) negotiation process (prior to or after the expiration date or termination date of this Agreement), CLEC withdraws its Section 252(a)(1) request, CLEC must include in its notice of withdrawal a request to adopt a successor agreement under Section 252(i) of the Act or affirmatively state that CLEC does not wish to pursue a successor agreement with **SBC-13STATE** for a given state. The rates, terms and conditions of this Agreement shall continue in full force and effect for a period of ninety (90) days after the date CLEC provides notice of withdrawal of

its Section 252(a)(1) request. On the ninety-first (91) day following **SBC-13STATE**'s receipt of CLEC's notice of withdrawal of its Section 252(a)(1) request, unless CLEC provided **SBC-13STATE** notice of a Section 252(i) adoption in the interim, the Parties shall, subject to Section 6.5, have no further obligations under this Agreement.

- 6.9 If CLEC does not affirmatively state that it wishes to pursue a successor agreement with **SBC-13STATE** in its, as applicable, notice of expiration or termination or the written confirmation required after receipt of **SBC-13STATE**'s notice of expiration or termination, then the rates, terms and conditions of this Agreement shall continue in full force and effect for a period of ninety (90) days after the date CLEC provided or received notice of expiration or termination. On the ninety-first (91) day following CLEC provided or received notice of expiration or termination, the Parties shall, subject to Section 6.5, have no further obligations under this Agreement.
- 6.10 In the event of termination of this Agreement pursuant to Section 6.9, **SBC-13STATE** and CLEC shall cooperate in good faith to effect an orderly transition of service under this Agreement; provided that CLEC shall be solely responsible (from a financial, operational and administrative standpoint) to ensure that its End Users have been transitioned to a new LEC by the expiration date, termination date of this Agreement.

7. FRAUD BY END USER(S)

- 7.1 **SBC-13STATE** shall not be liable to CLEC for any fraud associated with CLEC's End Users' accounts, including 1+ IntraLATA toll, ported numbers, and Alternate Billing Service (ABS). ABS is a service that allows a customer to bill calls to account(s) that might not be associated with the originating line. There are three types of ABS calls: calling card, collect, and third number billed calls.
- 7.2 The Parties agree to cooperate with one another to investigate, minimize, and take corrective action in cases of fraud involving 1+ IntraLATA toll calls, ABS, and ported numbers. The Parties' fraud minimization procedures are to be cost-effective and implemented so as not to unduly burden or harm one Party as compared with the other.
- 7.3 In cases of suspected fraudulent activity by an End User, at a minimum, the cooperation referenced in Section 20.2 will include providing to the other Party, upon request, information concerning End Users who terminate services furnished by that Party without paying all outstanding charges. The Party seeking such information is responsible for securing the End User's permission to obtain such information.
- 7.4 **SBC-AMERITECH, SBC-SWBT, PACIFIC and SNET** will provide notification messages to CLEC on suspected occurrences of ABS-related fraud on CLEC

accounts stored in the applicable LIDB. **PACIFIC** will provide such alert messages by e-mail. **SBC-AMERITECH, SBC-SWBT and SNET** will provide via fax.

- 7.4.1 **SWBT (on behalf of itself and SNET) and PACIFIC** will use a Sleuth system to determine suspected occurrences of ABS-related fraud for CLEC using the same criteria **SWBT and PACIFIC** use to monitor fraud on their respective accounts.
- 7.4.2 CLEC understands that Sleuth alerts only identify potential occurrences of fraud. CLEC understands and agrees that it will need to perform its own investigations to determine whether a fraud situation actually exists. CLEC understands and agrees that it will also need to determine what, if any, action CLEC should take as a result of a Sleuth alert.
- 7.4.3 The Parties will provide contact names and numbers to each other for the exchange of Sleuth alert notification information twenty-four (24) hours per day seven (7) days per week.
- 7.4.4 For each alert notification provided to CLEC, CLEC may request a corresponding thirty-day (30-day) historical report of ABS-related query processing. CLEC may request up to three reports per alert.
- 7.5 In **SBC-SWBT and PACIFIC**, ABS-related alerts are provided to CLEC at no additional charge, except as set forth in Section 7.6.
- 7.6 In **PACIFIC**, 1+ IntraLATA toll fraud alerts are offered for Resale only under the product name Traffic Alert Referral Service (TARS). For TARS, CLEC agrees to pay a recurring usage rate as outlined in Appendix Pricing.
 - 7.6.1 Traffic Alert Referral Service
 - 7.6.1.1 Traffic Alert Referral Service (“TARS”) is a service that monitors traffic patterns associated with a CLEC’s resold lines. On no less than thirty (30) calendar days written notice, CLEC may order **PACIFIC**’s TARS. In providing TARS to CLEC, **PACIFIC** notifies CLEC of traffic abnormalities that indicate the possible occurrence of intraLATA fraud and furnishes to CLEC information on all 1+ alerts. CLEC understands and agrees that **PACIFIC** will use electronic mail to provide such information and that such information will only be available via electronic mail at the present time. It is the responsibility of CLEC to provide **PACIFIC** with the correct email address. Information will be provided on a per-alert basis and will be

priced on a per-alert basis. **PACIFIC** grants to CLEC a non-exclusive right to use the TARS information provided by **PACIFIC**. CLEC will not permit anyone but its duly authorized employees or agents to inspect or use this information. CLEC agrees to pay **PACIFIC** a recurring usage rate as set forth in Appendix Pricing in the “Other (RESALE)” category listed as “Traffic Alert Referral Service.”

7.6.1.2 CLEC shall be liable for all fraud associated with any resale service to which it subscribes. **PACIFIC** takes no responsibility, will not investigate, and will make no adjustments to CLEC’s account(s) in cases of fraud or any other related End User dispute.

7.6.1.3 In addition to any other indemnity obligations in this Agreement or any Appendix attached hereto, **PACIFIC** shall not be liable for any damages to CLEC or to any other person or entity for **PACIFIC**’s actions or the conduct of its employees in providing TARS to CLEC. CLEC shall indemnify, defend, and hold **PACIFIC** harmless from any and all claims, lawsuits, costs, damages, liabilities, losses, and expenses, including reasonable attorney fees, resulting from or in connection with CLEC’s use of **PACIFIC**’s TARS, except when such claims, lawsuits, costs, damages, liabilities, losses, or expenses are proximately caused by the willful misconduct or gross negligence of **PACIFIC** or its employees.

8. **DEPOSITS (SBC-12STATE)**

8.1 The deposit requirements set forth in this Section 8 apply to the services furnished by **SBC-12STATE** under this Agreement.

8.2 If CLEC has not established a minimum of twelve (12) consecutive months good credit history with all telephone company affiliates of **SBC** (that is, **AMERITECH**, **NEVADA**, **PACIFIC**, **SNET** and **SWBT**) where CLEC is doing or has done business as a local service provider, CLEC shall remit an initial cash deposit to **SBC-12STATE** prior to the furnishing of services in each state covered by this Agreement. The deposit required by the previous sentence shall be determined as follows:

8.2.1 for **NEVADA**, **PACIFIC** and **SWBT**, if immediately prior to the Effective Date, CLEC was not operating as a Local Service Provider in a state covered by this Agreement, the initial deposit for that state shall be in the amount of \$17,000; or

- 8.2.2 for **NEVADA, PACIFIC** and **SWBT**, if immediately prior to the Effective Date, CLEC was operating as a Local Service Provider in a state covered by this Agreement, the deposit for that state shall be in the amount calculated using the method set forth in Section 8.7 of this Agreement; or
- 8.2.3 for **SBC-AMERITECH**, subject to external credit check verification and/or financial statement review, **SBC-AMERITECH** may require two (2) to four (4) months of projected average monthly billings as a deposit.
- 8.2.4 If CLEC has established a minimum of twelve (12) consecutive months good credit history with all ILEC Affiliates of **SBC** (that is, **AMERITECH, NEVADA, PACIFIC, SNET** and **SWBT**) with which CLEC is doing or has done business as a Local Service Provider, **SBC-12STATE** shall waive the initial deposit requirement; provided, however, that the terms and conditions set forth in Section 8.1 through Section 8.10 of this Agreement shall continue to apply in each state for the Term. In determining whether CLEC has established a minimum of twelve (12) consecutive months good credit history with each ILEC Affiliate of **SBC** with which CLEC is doing or has done business, CLEC's payment record with each ILEC Affiliate of **SBC** for the most recent twelve (12) months occurring within the twenty-four (24) month period immediately prior to the Effective Date shall be considered.
- 8.3 Any cash deposit for one state shall be held by **SBC-12STATE** as a guarantee of payment of charges billed to CLEC, provided, however, **SBC-12STATE** may exercise its right to credit any cash deposit to CLEC's account upon the occurrence of any one of the following events:
- 8.3.1 when **SBC-12STATE** sends CLEC the second delinquency notification for that state during the most recent twelve (12) months; or
- 8.3.2 when **SBC-12STATE** suspends CLEC's ability to process orders in accordance with Section 10.5.1.1 or 10.6.1.1, as applicable; or
- 8.3.3 when CLEC files for protection under the bankruptcy laws; or
- 8.3.4 when an involuntary petition in bankruptcy is filed against CLEC and is not dismissed within sixty (60) days; or
- 8.3.5 when this Agreement expires or terminates; or
- 8.3.6 during the month following the expiration of twelve (12) months after that cash deposit was remitted, **SBC-12STATE** shall credit any cash deposit to CLEC's

account so long as CLEC has not been sent more than one delinquency notification letter for that state during the most recent twelve (12) months.

- 8.3.7 For the purposes of this Section 8.3, interest will be calculated as specified Section 9.1.4.1 through 9.1.4.3 and shall be credited to CLEC's account at the time that the cash deposit is credited to CLEC's account.
- 8.4 So long as CLEC maintains timely compliance with its payment obligations, **SBC-12STATE** will not increase the deposit amount required. If CLEC fails to maintain timely compliance with its payment obligations, **SBC-12STATE** reserves the right to require additional deposit(s) in accordance with Section 8.5 through Section 8.10, inclusive.
- 8.5 If during the first six (6) months of operations in a state under this Agreement, CLEC has been sent one delinquency notification letter by **SBC-12STATE**, the deposit amount for that state shall be re-evaluated based upon CLEC's actual billing totals and shall be increased if CLEC's actual billing average:
- 8.5.1 for **NEVADA, PACIFIC** or **SWBT** for a two (2) month period exceeds the deposit amount held; or
- 8.5.2 for **AMERITECH** for a two (2) to four (4) month period exceeds the deposit amount held.
- 8.6 Throughout the Term, any time CLEC has been sent two (2) delinquency notification letters for any one state by **SBC-12STATE**, the deposit amount for that state shall be re-evaluated based upon CLEC's actual billing totals and shall be increased if CLEC's actual billing average:
- 8.6.1 or **NEVADA, PACIFIC** or **SWBT** for a two (2) month period exceeds the deposit amount held; or
- 8.6.2 for **AMERITECH** for a two (2) to four (4) month period exceeds the deposit amount held.
- 8.7 Whenever a deposit is re-evaluated as specified in Section 8.5 or Section 8.6, such deposit shall be calculated in an amount equal to the average billing to CLEC for that state for a two (2) to four (4) month period. The most recent three (3) months billing on all of CLEC's CBAs/ESBAs/ASBS ("CBA" is utilized in **SWBT** only; "ESBA" is utilized in **PACIFIC** and **NEVADA** only; "ASBS" is utilized in **AMERITECH** only) and BANs for services furnished within that state shall be used to calculate CLEC's monthly average.

- 8.7.1 In **SBC-7STATE** only, after calculating the amount equal to the average billing to CLEC for that state for a two (2) month period, add the amount of any charges that would be applicable to transfer all of CLEC's then-existing End-Users of resale services to **SBC-7STATE** in the event of CLEC's disconnection for non-payment of charges. The resulting sum is the amount of the deposit.
- 8.8 Whenever a deposit is re-evaluated as specified in Section 8.5 and Section 8.6, CLEC shall remit the additional deposit amount to **SBC-12STATE** within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of written notification from **SBC-12STATE** requiring such deposit. If CLEC fails to furnish the required deposit within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of written notice requesting such deposit, **SBC-12STATE** shall begin the process set forth in Section 10.2. If CLEC continues to fail to furnish the required deposit at the expiration of the fourteen (14) calendar days specified in Section 10.2, then **SBC-12STATE** shall begin the procedure(s) set forth in Sections 10.5.1 and 10.6.1, as appropriate for the state.
- 8.9 This cash deposit requirement may be satisfied in whole or in part with an irrevocable bank letter of credit acceptable to **SBC-12STATE**. No interest shall be paid by **SBC-12STATE** for any portion of the deposit requirement satisfied by an irrevocable bank letter of credit. **SBC-12STATE** may demand payment from the issuing bank of any irrevocable bank letter of credit upon the occurrence of any of the events listed in Section 8.3.1 through 8.3.5 hereof.
- 8.10 The fact that **SBC-12STATE** holds either a cash deposit or irrevocable bank letter of credit does not relieve CLEC from timely compliance with its payment obligations under this Agreement.
- 8.11 For Deposit requirements for **SNET**, see the applicable **DPUC** ordered tariff.

9. BILLING AND PAYMENT OF CHARGES

- 9.1 Unless otherwise stated, **SBC-13STATE** will render monthly bill(s) to CLEC for services provided hereunder at the rates set forth in the applicable Appendix Pricing, as set forth in applicable tariffs or other documents specifically referenced herein and, as applicable, as agreed upon by the Parties or authorized by a Party.
- 9.1.1 Remittance in full of all bills rendered by **SBC-AMERITECH**, **SBC-SWBT** and **PACIFIC** is due within thirty (30) days of each bill date (the “**Bill Due Date**”) and shall be paid in accordance with the terms of Section 9.2 of this Agreement.

- 9.1.2 Remittance in full of all bills rendered by **NEVADA** is due in accordance with the terms set forth in the Commission C2-A Tariff, with the date on which amounts are due referred to herein as the **“Bill Due Date”**.
- 9.1.3 Remittance in full of all bills rendered by **SNET** is due in accordance with the terms set forth in the Connecticut Access Service Tariff approved by the DPUC, with the date on which amounts are due referred to herein as the **“Bill Due Date”**.
- 9.1.4 If CLEC fails to remit payment for any charges for services by the Bill Due Date, or if a payment or any portion of a payment is received from CLEC after the Bill Due Date, or if a payment or any portion of a payment is received in funds which are not immediately available to **SBC-13STATE** as of the Bill Due Date (individually and collectively, **“Past Due”**), then a late payment charge shall be assessed as provided in Sections 9.1.4.1 through 9.1.4.3, as applicable.
- 9.1.4.1 If any charge incurred under this Agreement that is billed out of any **SBC-8STATE** billing system other than the **SBC-SWBT** Customer Records Information System (CRIS) is Past Due, the unpaid amounts shall bear interest from the Bill Due Date until paid at the lesser of (i) the rate used to compute the Late Payment Charge in the applicable **SBC-8STATE** intrastate access services tariff in that state and (ii) the highest rate of interest that may be charged under Applicable Law, compounded daily from the Bill Due Date to and including the date that the payment is actually made and available.
- 9.1.4.2 If any charge incurred under this Agreement that is billed out of **SBC-SWBT**'s CRIS is Past Due, the unpaid amounts shall bear interest from the Bill Due Date until paid. The interest rate applied to **SBC-SWBT** CRIS-billed Past Due unpaid amounts shall be the lesser of (i) the rate used to compute the Late Payment Charge contained in the applicable **SBC-SWBT** intrastate retail Commission-approved tariff governing Late Payment Charges to **SBC-SWBT**'s retail End Users that are business End Users in that state and (ii) the highest rate of interest that may be charged under Applicable Law, compounded daily from the Bill Due Date to and including the date that the payment is actually made and available.
- 9.1.4.3 If any charge incurred under this Agreement that is billed out of any **SBC-AMERITECH** billing system is Past Due, the unpaid amounts shall accrue interest from the Due Date at the lesser of (i) one and

one-half percent (1 ½%) per month and (ii) the highest rate of interest that may be charged under Applicable Law, compounded daily from the Bill Due Date to and including the date that the payment is actually made and available.

9.2 CLEC shall make all payments to **SBC-12STATE** via electronic funds credit transfers through the Automated Clearing House Association (ACH) network to the financial institution designated by **SBC-12STATE**. Remittance information will be communicated together with the funds transfer via the ACH network. CLEC shall use the CCD+ or the CTX transaction set. CLEC and **SBC-12STATE** shall abide by the National Automated Clearing House Association (NACHA) Rules and Regulations. Each ACH credit transfer shall be received by **SBC-12STATE** no later than the Bill Due Date of each bill or Late Payment Charges will apply. **SBC-12STATE** shall not be liable for any delays in receipt of funds or errors in entries caused by CLEC or Third Parties, including CLEC's financial institution. CLEC is responsible for its own banking fees.

9.2.1 CLEC shall make all payments to **SNET** in “immediately available funds.” All payments to **SNET** shall be made using one of the methods set forth in the Connecticut Access Service Tariff approved by the **CT-DPUC** or via electronic funds credit transfers through the Automated Clearing House Association (ACH) network to the financial institution designated by **SNET**. If CLEC makes payment through funds transfer via the ACH network, remittance information will be communicated together with the funds transfer via the ACH network. If CLEC makes payment through funds transfer via the ACH network, CLEC shall use the CCD+ or the CTX transaction set. CLEC and **SNET** shall abide by the National Automated Clearing House Association (NACHA) Rules and Regulations. Each payment shall be received by **SNET** no later than the Bill Due Date of each bill or Late Payment Charges will apply. **SNET** shall not be liable for any delays in receipt of funds or errors in entries caused by CLEC or Third Parties, including CLEC's financial institution. CLEC is responsible for its own banking fees.

9.3 If any portion of an amount due to **SBC-13STATE** for services furnished under this Agreement is subject to a bona fide dispute, CLEC shall, prior to the Bill Due Date, give written notice to **SBC-13STATE** of the amounts it disputes (“Disputed Amounts”) and include in such written notice the specific details and reasons for disputing each item, as listed in Section 18.4.1. CLEC shall pay when due (i) all undisputed amounts, and (ii) all Disputed Amounts into an interest bearing escrow account with a Third Party escrow agent mutually agreed upon by the Parties. To be acceptable, the Third Party escrow agent must meet all of the following criteria:

- 9.3.1 The financial institution proposed as the Third Party escrow agent must be located within the continental United States;
- 9.3.2 The financial institution proposed as the Third Party escrow agent may not be an Affiliate of either Party; and
- 9.3.3 The financial institution proposed as the Third Party escrow agent must be authorized to handle Automatic Clearing House (ACH) (credit transactions) (electronic funds) transfers.
- 9.3.4 In addition to the foregoing requirements for the Third Party escrow agent, CLEC and the financial institution proposed as the Third Party escrow agent must agree that the escrow account will meet all of the following criteria:
 - 9.3.4.1 The escrow account must be an interest bearing account;
 - 9.3.4.2 All charges associated with opening and maintaining the escrow account will be borne by CLEC;
 - 9.3.4.3 That none of the funds deposited into the escrow account or the interest earned thereon may be subjected to the financial institution's charges for serving as the Third Party escrow agent;
 - 9.3.4.4 All interest earned on deposits to the escrow account shall be disbursed to the Parties in the same proportion as the principal; and
 - 9.3.4.5 Disbursements from the escrow account shall be limited to those:
 - 9.3.4.5.1 authorized in writing by both CLEC and **SBC-13STATE** (that is, signature(s) from representative(s) of CLEC only are not sufficient to properly authorize any disbursement); or
 - 9.3.4.5.2 made in accordance with the final, non-appealable order of the arbitrator appointed pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.7; or
 - 9.3.4.5.3 made in accordance with the final, non-appealable order of the court that had jurisdiction to enter the arbitrator's award pursuant to Section 15.7.

- 9.4 Disputed Amounts in escrow shall be subject to Late Payment Charges as set forth in Section 9.1.
- 9.5 Issues related to Disputed Amounts shall be resolved in accordance with the procedures identified in the Dispute Resolution provisions set forth in Section 15.
- 9.6 If CLEC disputes any charges for services furnished under this Agreement and any portion of the dispute is resolved in favor of CLEC, the Parties shall cooperate to ensure that all of the following actions are taken:
- 9.6.1 **SBC-13STATE** shall credit the invoice of CLEC for that portion of the Disputed Amounts resolved in favor of CLEC, together with any Late Payment Charges assessed with respect thereto no later than the second Bill Due Date after the resolution of the Dispute;
- 9.6.2 within fifteen (15) calendar days after resolution of the Dispute, the portion of the escrowed Disputed Amounts resolved in favor of CLEC shall be released to CLEC, together with any accrued interest thereon;
- 9.6.3 within fifteen (15) calendar days after resolution of the Dispute, the portion of the Disputed Amounts resolved in favor of **SBC-13STATE** shall be released to **SBC-13STATE**, together with any accrued interest thereon; and
- 9.6.4 no later than the third Bill Due Date after the resolution of the dispute regarding the Disputed Amounts, CLEC shall pay **SBC-13STATE** the difference between the amount of accrued interest **SBC-13STATE** received from the escrow disbursement and the amount of Late Payment Charges **SBC-13STATE** is entitled to receive pursuant to Section 9.1.
- 9.7 Failure by CLEC to pay any charges determined to be owed to **SBC-13STATE** within the time specified in Section 9.6 shall be grounds for termination of this Agreement.
- 9.8 Exchange of Billing Message Information
- 9.8.1 **SBC-13 STATE** will provide CLEC a specific Daily Usage File (“DUF” or “Usage Extract”) for usage sensitive services furnished hereunder (“Customer Usage Data”). Such Customer Usage Data shall be provided by **SBC-13STATE** in accordance with Exchange Message Interface (EMI) guidelines supported by OBF. Any exceptions to the supported formats will be noted in the DUF implementation requirements documentation for each ILEC. The DUF shall include (i) specific daily usage, including both Local Traffic (if and where applicable) and LEC-carried IntraLATA Toll Traffic, in EMI format

for usage sensitive services furnished in connection with each service to the extent that similar usage sensitive information is provided to retail End Users of **SBC-13STATE** within that state, (ii) with sufficient detail to enable CLEC to bill its End Users for usage sensitive services furnished by **SBC-13STATE** in connection with services furnished by **SBC-13STATE** under this Agreement. Procedures and processes for implementing the interfaces with **SBC-AMERITECH**, **PACIFIC**, **NEVADA**, **SNET**, and **SBC-SWBT** will be included in implementation requirements documentation.

- 9.8.2 To establish file transmission for the DUF, CLEC must provide a separate written request for each state to **SBC-AMERITECH**, **PACIFIC**, **NEVADA**, **SNET** and **SBC-SWBT** no less than sixty (60) calendar days prior to the desired first transmission date for each file.
- 9.8.3 Call detail for LEC-carried calls that are alternately billed to CLEC End Users will be forwarded to CLEC as rated call detail on the DUF.
- 9.8.4 **SBC-SWBT** shall bill CLEC for DUF furnished by **SBC-SWBT** in accordance with the price(s) provided in the applicable Appendix Pricing under "Electronic Billing Information."
- 9.8.5 Interexchange call detail on services furnished to CLEC under this Agreement for resale that is forwarded to **SBC-13STATE** for billing, which would otherwise be processed by **SBC-13STATE** for its retail End Users, will be returned to the IXC and will not be passed through to CLEC. This call detail will be returned to the IXC with a transaction code indicating that the returned call originated from a resold account. Billing for Information Services and other ancillary services traffic on resold accounts will be passed through when **SBC-13STATE** records the message.
- 9.8.6 **SBC-AMERITECH**, **NEVADA** and **PACIFIC** Ancillary Services messages originated on or billed to a resold account in those seven (7) states shall be subject to the rates, terms and conditions of Appendix Message Exchange.
- 9.8.7 CLEC shall be responsible for providing all billing information to each of its End Users, regardless of the method used to provision the End User's service.

10. NONPAYMENT AND PROCEDURES FOR DISCONNECTION

- 10.1 If CLEC is furnished services under the terms of this Agreement in more than one (1) state, Sections 10.1 through 10.7, inclusive, shall be applied separately for each such state.
- 10.2 Failure to pay charges may be grounds for termination of this Agreement. If CLEC fails to pay by the Bill Due Date, any and all charges billed to it under this Agreement, including any Late Payment Charges or miscellaneous charges (“**Unpaid Charges**”), and any portion of such Unpaid Charges remain unpaid fifteen (15) calendar days after the Bill Due Date, **SBC-13STATE** shall notify CLEC in writing that in order to avoid disruption or disconnection of the services furnished under this Agreement, CLEC must remit all Unpaid Charges to **SBC-13STATE** within fourteen (14) calendar days following receipt of **SBC-13STATE**’s notice.
- 10.3 If CLEC desires to dispute any portion of the Unpaid Charges, CLEC shall take all of the following actions not later than fourteen (14) calendar days following receipt of **SBC-13STATE**’s notice of Unpaid Charges:
- 10.3.1 notify **SBC-13STATE** in writing which portion(s) of the Unpaid Charges it disputes, including the total amount disputed (“**Disputed Amounts**”) including all of the specific details listed in Section 10.4.1, together with the reasons for its dispute; and
- 10.3.2 immediately pay to **SBC-13STATE** all undisputed Unpaid Charges; and
- 10.3.3 pay all Disputed Amounts into an interest bearing escrow account that complies with all of the requirements set forth in Section 9.3.
- 10.3.4 Evidence that CLEC has established an interest bearing escrow account that complies with all of the terms set forth in Section 9.3 of this Agreement and deposited a sum equal to the Disputed Amounts into that escrow account must be furnished to **SBC-13STATE** before the Unpaid Charges will be deemed to be “disputed” under Section 15.4.1.
- 10.4 Issues related to Disputed Amounts shall be resolved in accordance with the procedures identified in the Dispute Resolution provision set forth in Section 15.
- 10.5 **SBC-AMERITECH** only
- 10.5.1 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, if CLEC fails to (i) pay any undisputed amounts by the Bill Due Date, (ii) pay the disputed portion of a past

due bill into an interest-bearing escrow account with a Third Party escrow agent, (iii) pay any revised deposit or (iv) make a payment in accordance with the terms of any mutually agreed upon payment arrangement, **SBC-AMERITECH** may, in addition to exercising any other rights or remedies it may have under Applicable Law, provide written demand to CLEC for failing to comply with the foregoing. If CLEC does not satisfy the written demand within five (5) Business Days of receipt, **SBC-AMERITECH** may exercise any, or all, of the following options:

10.5.1.1 assess a late payment charge and where appropriate, a dishonored check charge;

10.5.1.2 require provision of a deposit or increase an existing deposit pursuant to a revised deposit request;

10.5.1.3 refuse to accept new, or complete pending, orders; and/or

10.5.1.4 discontinue service.

10.5.2 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Agreement, **SBC-AMERITECH**'s exercise of any of the above options:

10.5.2.1 shall not delay or relieve CLEC's obligation to pay all charges on each and every invoice on or before the applicable Bill Due Date, and

10.5.2.2 Sections 10.5.1.3 and 10.5.1.4 shall exclude any affected order or service from any applicable performance interval or Performance Benchmark.

10.5.3 Once disconnection has occurred, additional charges may apply.

10.6 **SBC-7STATE** only

10.6.1 If any Unpaid Charges remain unpaid and undisputed twenty-nine (29) calendar days past the Bill Due Date of such Unpaid Charges, **SBC-7STATE** shall notify CLEC and the Commission in writing that unless all Unpaid Charges are paid within sixteen (16) calendar days following CLEC's receipt of such notice, all services furnished to CLEC under this Agreement shall be disconnected. This notice shall further specify that **SBC-7STATE** shall cause any of CLEC's End Users provisioned with such services to be defaulted to **SBC-7STATE** local service.

- 10.6.1.1 On the same day that it sends the letter required by Section 13.6.1, **SBC-7STATE** will suspend acceptance of any new order and completion of any pending order (other than a disconnect order) from CLEC for any service that could be furnished under this Agreement.
- 10.6.1.2 Section 10.6.1.1 shall exclude any affected order for service(s) from any applicable performance interval and computation of any Performance Measurement.
- 10.6.2 If any Unpaid Charges remain unpaid and undisputed forty (40) calendar days past the Bill Due Date of the Unpaid Charges, CLEC shall, at its sole expense, notify its End Users and the Commission that the End Users' service may be disconnected due to CLEC's failure to pay Unpaid Charges, and that its End Users must affirmatively select a new local service provider within five (5) calendar days. This notice shall also advise each of CLEC's End Users that **SBC-7STATE** will transfer provisioning of the End User's account to **SBC-7STATE** at the end of the five (5) calendar day period should the End User fail to select a new local service provider in the interim.
- 10.6.3 If any Unpaid Charges for services furnished to CLEC under this Agreement remain unpaid and undisputed forty-five (45) calendar days past the Bill Due Date of such Unpaid Charges, **SBC-7STATE** shall disconnect all services furnished to CLEC under this Agreement.
- 10.6.3.1 On the same date that services are disconnected, **SBC-7STATE** shall cause CLEC's End Users to be transferred directly to **SBC-7STATE**'s local service. To the extent available at retail from **SBC-7STATE**, the End Users transferred to **SBC-7STATE**'s local service shall receive the same services provided through CLEC immediately prior to the time of transfer; provided, however, **SBC-7STATE** reserves the right to toll restrict (both interLATA and intraLATA) such transferred End Users.
- 10.6.3.2 Applicable conversion charges and service establishment charges for transferring End Users from CLEC to **SBC-7STATE** as specified in this Section 10.6 shall be billed to CLEC.
- 10.6.3.3 **SBC-7STATE** shall inform the Commission of the names of all End Users transferred through this process.
- 10.6.4 Within five (5) calendar days of the transfer, **SBC-7STATE** shall notify all transferred End Users that because of CLEC's failure to pay **SBC-7STATE**,

their local service is now being provided by **SBC-7STATE**. **SBC-7STATE** shall also notify each transferred End User that the End User has thirty (30) calendar days to select a new local service provider.

10.6.5 Within twenty (20) days of transfer, **SWBT-KS** shall again notify all transferred Resale End Users who have not exercised their option to select a new Local Service Provider that because of CLEC's failure to pay **SWBT-KS**, their local service is now being provided by **SWBT-KS**. **SWBT-KS** shall also notify the End Users that they have fifteen (15) days to select a local service provider.

10.6.6 If any End User transferred to **SBC-7STATE**'s local service pursuant to Section 10.6.3 of this Agreement fails to select a new local service provider within thirty (30) calendar days of the transfer to **SBC-7STATE**'s local service, **SBC-7STATE** shall terminate the End User's service.

10.6.6.1 The transferred End User shall be responsible for any and all charges incurred during the selection period.

10.6.6.2 **SBC-7STATE** shall notify the Commission of the names of all End Users whose service has been terminated pursuant to this Section 10.6.5.

10.6.7 **SBC-7STATE** may discontinue service to CLEC as provided in Section 10.6.3 and shall have no liability to CLEC or CLEC's End Users in the event of such disconnection or any transfer of End Users to **SBC-7STATE**'s service in connection with such disconnection.

10.6.8 Nothing in this Agreement shall be interpreted to obligate **SBC-7STATE** to continue to provide service to any transferred End User beyond the thirty (30) calendar day selection period. Nothing herein shall be interpreted to limit any and all disconnection rights **SBC-7STATE** has with regard to such End Users under Applicable Law; provided, however,

10.6.8.1 in **PACIFIC** only, following expiration of the selection period and disconnection of such End Users, where facilities permit, **PACIFIC** will furnish transferred and subsequently disconnected residential End Users with "quick dial tone."

10.6.9 Once the letter required by Section 10.6.1 has been sent to CLEC, **SBC-7STATE** shall not accept any order (other than a disconnect order) from CLEC until

10.6.9.1 all Unpaid Charges are paid, and

10.6.9.1.1 CLEC has furnished **SBC-7STATE** a cash deposit calculated pursuant to the terms and conditions of Section 8.

10.7 Disconnection for **SNET**, see the applicable DPUC ordered tariff.

11. TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR RESALE OF SERVICES

11.1 Except as otherwise expressly provided herein, for Telecommunications Services included within this Agreement that are offered by **SBC-13STATE** to **SBC-13STATE**'s End Users through tariff(s), the rules and regulations associated with **SBC-13STATE**'s retail tariff(s) shall apply when the services are resold by CLEC, with the exception of any tariff resale restrictions; provided, however, any tariff restrictions on further resale by the End User shall continue to apply. Use limitations on any service resold by CLEC to its End Users shall be in parity with the use limitations applicable to the same service offered by **SBC-13STATE** to its End Users.

11.2 CLEC shall only sell Plexar? , Centrex and Centrex-like services to a single End User or multiple End Users in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in the corresponding **SBC-13STATE** retail tariff(s) applicable within that state.

11.3 Except where otherwise explicitly permitted in **SBC-13STATE**'s corresponding retail tariff(s), CLEC shall not permit the sharing of a service by multiple End User(s) or the aggregation of traffic from multiple End User(s) onto a single service.

11.3.1 This section applies only to **SWBT-TX**:

11.3.1.1 Within the State of Texas, based upon the Texas Commission's arbitration order, **SWBT-TX** will permit aggregation for purposes of the resale of volume discount offers. Volume discount offers include such items as intraLATA toll, but do not include such items as packages of vertical features.

11.4 Grandfathered services are available per appropriate state specific tariff to CLEC for resale at the applicable discount only to the same End User, at the existing End User's location, to which **SBC-13STATE** provides the service, either at retail or through resale.

- 11.5 CLEC shall only resell services furnished under this Agreement to the same category of End Users to whom **SBC-13STATE** offers such services (for example, residence service shall not be resold to business End Users).

11.6 **SPECIAL NEEDS SERVICES**

11.6.1 CLEC may only resell special needs services” as identified in associated state specific tariffs to persons who are eligible for each such service. As used herein, the term "special needs services" means services for the physically disabled where the disability is related to vision, speech, hearing or motion. Further, to the extent CLEC resells services that require certification on the part of the End User, CLEC shall ensure that the End User has obtained proper certification and complies with all rules and regulations as established by the appropriate Commission.

11.6.1.1 If the existing retail Customer Service Record ("CSR") for an End User's account currently provisioned at retail by **SBC-13STATE** contains an indicator that the same telephone number for the same named Person at the same address is currently being billed by **SBC-13STATE** retail for the same “special needs service,” the End User has previously been certified as eligible for that "special needs service."

11.6.1.2 If the indicator described in Section 11.6.1.1 is present on the End User's current retail account with an **SBC-13STATE** company, CLEC must make the determination whether the End User continues to be eligible for the program(s) specified in Section 11.6.1 hereof. CLEC is responsible for obtaining any End User certification or re-certification required by the terms of the state specific **SBC-13STATE** tariff for any "special needs service" it resells to any End User beginning on the date that CLEC submits any order relating to that "special needs service." This responsibility includes obtaining and retaining any documentary evidence of each such End User's eligibility, in accordance with the applicable **SBC-13STATE** retail tariff requirements.

11.6.1.3 If the indicator described in Section 11.6.1 is not present on the End User's current retail account with an **SBC-13STATE** company, or if the applicant does not currently have local telephone service, CLEC is responsible for ensuring that the End User is eligible for any "special needs service" in accordance with applicable **SBC-13STATE** retail tariff requirements, for obtaining

and retaining any documentary evidence of such eligibility and for designating such End User or applicant as eligible to participate in such program(s).

11.6.2 This section applies only to **SBC-SWBT**:

- 11.6.2.1 CLEC may only resell **SBC-SWBT** LifeLine and Link-Up services, according to associated retail state specific tariffs to persons who are eligible for each such service. Further, to the extent CLEC resells services that require certification on the part of the End User, CLEC shall ensure that the End User meets all associated tariff eligibility requirements, has obtained proper certification and complies with all rules and regulations as established by the appropriate Commission.
- 11.6.2.2 When the End User is currently receiving **SBC-SWBT** LifeLine and/or Link-Up benefit, the existing **SBC-SWBT** CSR will carry the appropriate service indicator. CLEC may view this indicator on the **SBC-SWBT** CSR.
- 11.6.2.3 If the indicator described in Section 11.6.2.2 is present on the End User's current retail **SBC-SWBT** CSR, CLEC must make the determination whether the End User continues to be eligible for the program(s) specified in Section 11.6.2.1 hereof. CLEC is responsible for obtaining any End User certification or re-certification required by the terms of the state specific **SBC-SWBT** tariff for LifeLine or Link-Up service it resells to any End User beginning on the date that CLEC submits any order relating to that service. This responsibility includes obtaining and retaining any documentary evidence of each such End User's eligibility, in accordance with the applicable **SBC-SWBT** retail tariff requirements.
- 11.6.2.4 If the indicator described in Section 11.6.2.2 is not present on the CSR for the End User's current retail account with **SBC-SWBT**, or if the applicant does not currently have local telephone service, CLEC is responsible for ensuring that the End User is eligible for any LifeLine or Link-Up service in accordance with applicable **SBC-SWBT** retail tariff requirements, for obtaining and retaining any documentary evidence of such eligibility and for designating such End User or applicant as eligible to participate in such program(s).

11.7 **This section applies only to NEVADA, PACIFIC, SNET AND SBC-AMERITECH:**

11.7.1 **NEVADA, PACIFIC, SNET AND SBC-AMERITECH** LifeLine and Link-Up services are not available for resale.

11.7.2 When an End User is currently receiving **NEVADA, PACIFIC, SNET** or **SBC-AMERITECH** LifeLine or Link-Up service, the existing **NEVADA, PACIFIC, SNET** or **SBC-AMERITECH** Customer Service Record (CSR) will carry the appropriate service indicator. CLEC may view this indicator on the CSR.

11.7.2.1 CLEC may obtain LifeLine or Link-Up indicator data from **NEVADA, PACIFIC, SNET** or **SBC-AMERITECH**'s existing retail CSR for the End User for the sole purpose of enabling CLEC to determine whether the End User may be eligible for any similar program(s) CLEC may offer.

11.7.2.2 CLEC is exclusively responsible for all aspects of any similar CLEC-offered program, including ensuring that any similar CLEC-offered program(s) complies with all applicable federal and state requirements, obtaining all necessary End User certifications and re-certifications, submitting written designation that any of CLEC's End User or applicants are eligible to participate in such programs, submitting CLEC's claims for reimbursement to any applicable governmental authority and any other activities required by any applicable governmental authority.

11.7.3 If no **NEVADA, PACIFIC, SNET** or **SBC-AMERITECH** LifeLine and/or Link-Up indicator is present on the CSR for the End User's current retail account, such End User is not currently certified as eligible to participate in any LifeLine or Link-Up program offered by **NEVADA, PACIFIC, SNET** or **SBC-AMERITECH**.

11.8 **Customer Specific Pricing**

11.8.1 This section applies only to **SWBT-KS** and **SWBT-TX**:

11.8.1.1 CLEC may convert current **SWBT-KS** and **SWBT-TX** End User(s) that have existing term, volume, termination liability or any customer specific pricing contracts (collectively referred to

hereinafter as “CSP Contracts”) for services offered within the State of Kansas or Texas, and

11.8.1.2 **SWBT-KS** and **SWBT-TX** and any other reseller of **SWBT-KS** or **SWBT-TX** local service may convert current CLEC End User(s) that have existing CSP Contracts for services offered within the State of Kansas or Texas.

11.8.1.3 In the event of a conversion under either Section 11.8.1.1 or 11.8.1.2, CLEC and **SWBT-KS** or **SWBT-TX** shall comply with all of the terms and conditions set forth in Sections 11.8.2 and 11.8.3 hereof.

11.8.1.4 Responsibilities of CLEC in connection with CSP Contract Conversions

11.8.1.4.1 CLEC shall sign an “Assumption of Existing Agreement: assuming the balance of the terms, including volume, term and termination liability remaining on any current retail **SWBT-KS** or **SWBT-TX** or resold End User CSP Contract at the time of conversion. CLEC may assume the CSP Contract at the wholesale discount of 5.0% in Kansas and 5.62% in Texas for customer specific pricing plan contracts and at the wholesale discount of 8.0% in Kansas and 8.04% in Texas for tariffed volume and term contracts.

11.8.1.4.2 CLEC shall not charge CLEC’s End User termination liability when an existing CSP contract between CLEC and its End User is converted to **SWBT-KS** or **SWBT-TX** or any other local service provider reselling **SWBT-KS** or **SWBT-TX** local service.

11.8.1.4.3 If another reseller of **SWBT-KS** or **SWBT-TX** local service converts a current CLEC End User(s) that has an existing CSP Contract, it is CLEC's responsibility to address assumption of the CSP contract and termination liability with the other reseller. CLEC agrees that **SWBT-KS** or **SWBT-TX** has no responsibilities in such a situation, and CLEC further agrees that it will not make any Claim against **SWBT-KS** or **SWBT-TX** in connection with any conversion by another reseller of

SWBT-KS or **SWBT-TX** local service of any CLEC
End User(s) that has an existing CSP contract.

11.8.1.5 Responsibilities of **SWBT-KS** or **SWBT-TX** in connection with CSP Contract Conversions

11.8.1.5.1 **SWBT-KS** or **SWBT-TX** will not charge its retail End User termination liability when an existing CSP contract is converted to CLEC for resale.

11.8.1.5.2 **SWBT-KS** or **SWBT-TX** will assume in writing the balance of the terms, including volume, term and termination liability remaining on a current CSP contract between CLEC and its End User at the time that CLEC's End User is converted to **SWBT-KS** or **SWBT-TX**.

11.8.2 This section applies only to **SBC-AMERITECH**:

11.8.2.1 **SBC-AMERITECH** retail contracts may be assumed unless expressly prohibited by the contract. Contracts for grandfathered and/or sunsetted services may not be assumed.

11.8.2.2 Subject to the provisions of Section 11.8.2.1, the following shall apply:

11.8.2.2.1 **AM-IL** tariffed and Individual Case Basis (ICB) contracts that are assumed receive a wholesale discount of 3.16%.

11.8.2.2.2 **AM-MI** tariffed and Individual Case Basis (ICB) contracts that are assumed receive a wholesale discount of 3.39%.

11.8.2.2.3 **AM-IN**, **AM-OH**, and **AM-WI** tariffed and Individual Case Basis (ICB) contracts may be assumed, but receive no wholesale discount.

11.8.2.2.4 **SBC-AMERITECH** Non-Standard Service contracts may be assumed, but receive no wholesale discount.

11.8.2.3 If CLEC elects to terminate a **SBC-AMERITECH** retail contract which CLEC had previously assumed, CLEC will be assessed the applicable termination charges remaining unless CLEC elects to simultaneously replace the existing contract with a contract of

greater term and/or volume at the same discount CLEC receives for the previously assumed but now terminated contract.

11.9 Payphone Services

11.9.1 CLEC may provide certain local Telecommunications Services to payphone service providers (“PSPs”) for PSPs’ use in providing payphone service. Local Telecommunications Services which PSPs use in providing payphone service that are provided to PSPs by CLEC by means of reselling **SBC-13STATE**’s services offered pursuant to the appropriate payphone section(s) of **SBC-13STATE**’s state specific tariff(s) applicable in each state covered by this Agreement are referred to in this Agreement as “Payphone Lines.” In its Common Carrier Docket No. 96-128, the FCC ordered **SBC-13STATE** to compensate PSP customers of CLECs that resell **SBC-13STATE**’s services for certain calls originated from pay telephones and received by the resale-based carriers. Implementation of the Pay Telephone Reclassification and Compensation Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, FCC Docket No. 96-128, Report and Order, para. 86 (1996)). This compensation is referred to in this Agreement as “Payphone Compensation.”

11.9.2 The Parties desire that **SBC-13STATE** satisfy the obligation to pay Payphone Compensation to PSPs that are customers of CLEC by paying the Payphone Compensation to CLEC, who will then forward the Payphone Compensation directly to the PSPs.

11.9.2.1 **SBC-13STATE** will pay Payphone Compensation due with respect to Payphone Lines in compliance with the current or any future order of the FCC. **SBC-13STATE** will pay Payphone Compensation to CLEC only for:

11.9.2.1.1 IntraLATA subscriber 800 calls for which **SBC-13STATE** provides the 800 service to the subscriber and carries the call; and

11.9.2.1.2 IntraLATA calls placed using **SBC-13STATE**’s prepaid calling card platform and carried by **SBC-13STATE**.

11.9.2.2 **SBC-13STATE** will not pay any Payphone Compensation for non-sent paid calls.

- 11.9.2.3 **SBC-13STATE** will pay CLEC the Payphone Compensation due to CLEC's PSP customer(s) within sixty (60) calendar days after the close of the calendar quarter during which the call(s) for which Payphone Compensation is due were made. However, payment may be made later than sixty (60) calendar days if **SBC-13STATE** deems it necessary to investigate a call or calls for possible fraud.
- 11.9.2.3.1 **SBC-13STATE** will make payment of any Payphone Compensation due to CLEC under this Agreement by crediting CLEC's bill for the Payphone Line over which the call that gives rise to the Payphone Compensation was placed. **SBC-13STATE** will not issue a check to CLEC if the credit for Payphone Compensation exceeds the balance due to **SBC-13STATE** on the bill.
- 11.9.2.4 Nothing in this Agreement entitles CLEC to receive or obligates **SBC-13STATE** to provide any call detail or other call record for any call that gives rise to Payphone Compensation.
- 11.9.2.5 CLEC represents and warrants that the only **SBC-13STATE** services that CLEC will make available to PSPs as Payphone Lines are the payphone services that **SBC-13STATE** offers pursuant to the appropriate payphone section(s) of **SBC-13STATE**'s state specific tariff(s) applicable in each state covered by this Agreement.
- 11.9.2.6 Except as provided otherwise in Section 11.9 of this Agreement, CLEC shall pay the entire amount of the Payphone Compensation due with respect to each Payphone Line to the PSP that is CLEC's customer for that Payphone Line. CLEC shall make such payment on or before the last business day of the calendar quarter following the calendar quarter during which the call(s) for which Payphone Compensation is due to the PSP were made. If **SBC-13STATE** pays any Payphone Compensation to CLEC later than sixty (60) calendar days after the close of the calendar quarter during which the call(s) for which Payphone Compensation is due were made, then CLEC shall pay the entire amount of such Payphone Compensation to the PSP that is CLEC's customer for that Payphone Line within ten (10) calendar days after receiving such Payphone Compensation from **SBC-13STATE**.

11.10 Suspension of Service

- 11.10.1 CLEC may offer to resell Customer Initiated Suspension and Restoral Service to its End Users at the associated state specific retail tariff rates, terms and conditions for suspension of service at the request of the End User.
- 11.10.2 **SBC-13STATE** will offer CLEC local service provider initiated suspension service for CLEC's purposes at the associated **SBC-13STATE** state specific retail tariff rate for company initiated suspension of service. Service specifics may be obtained in state specific CLEC Handbooks.
 - 11.10.2.1 CLEC shall be exclusively responsible for placing valid orders for the suspension and the subsequent disconnection or restoral of service to each of its End Users.
 - 11.10.2.2 Should CLEC suspend service for one of its End Users and fail to submit a subsequent disconnection order within the maximum number of calendar days permitted for a company initiated suspension pursuant to the state specific retail tariff, CLEC shall be charged and shall be responsible for all appropriate monthly service charges for the End User's service from the suspension date through the disconnection date.
 - 11.10.2.3 Should CLEC suspend service for one of its End Users and subsequently issue a restoral order, CLEC shall be charged the state specific tariff rate for the restoral plus all appropriate monthly service charges for the End User's service from the suspension date through the restoral date.

11.11 Promotions

- 11.11.1 Promotions are available for the Telecommunications Services outlined in Appendix Pricing in the "Resale" category and in accordance with state specific Commission requirements.
- 11.11.2 This section applies only to NEVADA and SWBT-MO:
 - 11.11.2.1 **NEVADA** and **SWBT-MO** promotions of eighty-nine (89) days or less are not available to CLEC for resale.
- 11.11.3 This section applies only to PACIFIC, SBC-AMERITECH, SNET, SWBT-AR and SWBT-OK:

11.11.3.1 **PACIFIC, SBC-AMERITECH, SNET, SWBT-AR** and **SWBT-OK** promotions of ninety (90) days or less are not available to CLEC for resale.

11.11.4 This section applies only to **SWBT-KS**:

11.11.4.1 Promotions on Telecommunications Services are available to CLEC for resale. A wholesale discount (14.9% or 21.6%, as applicable) will be applied to those promotions of ninety-one (91) days or more.

11.11.5 This section applies only to **SWBT-TX**:

11.11.5.1 Promotions on Telecommunications Services are available to CLEC for resale. A wholesale discount will be applied to those promotions of ninety-one (91) days or more.

12. **ADDITIONAL TERMS APPLICABLE TO RESALE OF SERVICES**

- 12.1 CLEC shall not use a resold service to avoid the rates, terms and conditions of **SBC-13STATE**'s corresponding retail tariff(s).
- 12.2 CLEC shall not use resold local Telecommunications Services to provide access or interconnection services to itself, interexchange carriers (IXCs), wireless carriers, competitive access providers (CAPs), or other telecommunications providers; provided however, that CLEC may permit its End Users to use resold local Telecommunications Services to access IXCs, wireless carriers, CAPs, or other retail telecommunications providers.
- 12.3 A federal End User Common Line charge and any other appropriate Commission-approved charges, as set forth in the appropriate **SBC-13STATE** federal and applicable state tariff(s) will apply to each local exchange line furnished to CLEC under this Agreement.
- 12.4 To the extent allowable by law, CLEC shall be responsible for Primary Interexchange Carrier (both PIC and LPIC) change charges associated with each local exchange line furnished to CLEC for resale. CLEC shall pay all charges for PIC and LPIC changes at the tariffed rate(s).

- 12.5 **SBC-13STATE**'s services are not available at wholesale rates to CLEC for its own use or for the use of any CLEC's affiliates and/or subsidiaries or the use of CLEC's parent or any affiliate and/or subsidiary of CLEC's parent company, if any.
- 12.6 If CLEC is in violation of any provision of this Appendix, **SBC-13STATE** will notify CLEC of the violation in writing. Such notice shall refer to the specific provision being violated. CLEC will have thirty (30) calendar days to correct the violation and notify **SBC-13STATE** in writing that the violation has been corrected. If the violation affects billing, **SBC-13STATE** will bill CLEC a sum equal (i) the charges that would have been billed by **SBC-13STATE** to CLEC or any Third Party but for the stated violation and (ii) the actual revenues CLEC billed its End User(s) in connection with the stated violation, whichever is greater. Should CLEC dispute the stated violation, CLEC must notify **SBC-13STATE** in writing of the specific details and reasons for its dispute within fourteen (14) calendar days of receipt of the notice from **SBC-13STATE** and comply with Sections 12.3 and 12.3. Resolution of any dispute by CLEC of the stated violation shall be conducted in compliance with the Dispute Resolution provisions of this Agreement.

13. **ANCILLARY SERVICES**

- 13.1 Where available, **SBC-13STATE** will afford CLEC's End Users the ability to make 911 calls. CLEC shall be responsible for collecting and remitting all applicable 911 fees and surcharges on a per line basis to the appropriate Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) or other Governmental Authority responsible for collection of such fees and surcharges. When requested by **SBC-13STATE**, CLEC shall provide **SBC-13STATE** with accurate and complete information regarding CLEC's End User(s) in a format and time frame prescribed by **SBC-13STATE** for purposes of E911 administration.
- 13.2 Subject to **SBC-13STATE**'s practices, as well as the rules and regulations applicable to the provision of White Pages directories, **SBC-13STATE** will include in appropriate White Pages directories the primary alphabetical listings of all CLEC End Users located within the local directory scope. The rules, regulations and **SBC-13STATE** practices are subject to change from time to time.
- 13.3 Additional Listing services, as set forth in Appendix Pricing, may be purchased by CLEC for its End Users on a per listing basis.
- 13.4 Each CLEC subscriber will receive one copy per primary End User listing of **SBC-13STATE**'s White Pages directory in the same manner and at the same time that they are delivered to **SBC-13STATE**'s subscribers during the annual delivery of newly published directories. For White Page directories and/or White Page directories that are

co-bound with Yellow Pages, CLEC may provide to **SBC-13STATE** written specifications of the total number of directories that it will require, at least sixty (60) days prior to the directory close. In that event, **SBC-13STATE** will deliver the remaining directories included in the CLEC's order in bulk to an address specified by the CLEC.

13.4.1 If CLEC's End User already has a current **SBC-13STATE** local White Pages directory, **SBC-13STATE** shall not be required to deliver a directory to that End User until new White Pages directories are published for that End User's location.

13.5 **SBC-8STATE** will provide CLEC with 1/8th page in each directory (where the CLEC has or plans to have local telephone exchange customers) for the CLEC to include CLEC specific-information (i.e., business office, residence office, repair bureau, etc.) in the White Pages directory on an "index-type" informational page. No advertising will be permitted on such informational page. This page will also include specific information pertaining to other CLECs. At its option, CLEC shall provide **SBC-8STATE** with its logo and information in the form of a camera-ready copy, sized at 1/8th of a page. The content of CLEC's camera-ready copy shall be subject to **SBC-8STATE** approval. In those directories in which **SBC-13STATE** includes Spanish Customer Guide Pages, this informational page will also be provided in Spanish at CLEC's request, subject to the guidelines set forth above.

13.6 At its request, CLEC may purchase "Informational Page(s)" in the informational section of the White Pages directory covering a geographic area where CLEC provides local telecommunications exchange service. Such page(s) shall be no different in style, size, color and format than **SBC-8STATE** "Informational Pages". Sixty (60) calendar days prior to the directory close date, the CLEC shall provide to **SBC-8STATE** the "Informational Page" in the form of camera-ready copy.

13.7 Except where expressly stated the terms and conditions for including CLEC End User listings in **SBC-AMERITECH** White Page directories as well as distribution of such directories to CLEC and/or CLEC End User's is a product offering available through a non-regulated subsidiary of. **SBC-AMERITECH**.

14. NETWORK AND SERVICE ORDER CONDITIONS

14.1 **SBC-13STATE** shall provide the services covered by this Agreement subject to availability of existing facilities and on a nondiscriminatory basis with its other customers. CLEC shall resell the services provided herein only in those service areas in which such services or any feature or capability thereof are offered to End Users at retail by **SBC-13STATE** as the incumbent local exchange carrier.

- 14.2 When an End User converts existing service to CLEC resold service of the same type without any additions or changes, charges for such conversion will apply as set forth in Appendix Pricing in the “Other (Resale)” category, listed as "conversion charges," and are applied per billable telephone number.
- 14.2.1 When an End User(s) subscribes to CLEC resold service, recurring charges for the service shall apply at the wholesale discount set forth in Appendix Pricing. The tariff rates for such resold service shall continue to be subject to orders of the appropriate Commission.
- 14.3 When CLEC converts an End Users existing service and additions or changes are made to the service at the time of conversion, the normal service order charges and/or non-recurring charges associated with said additions and/or changes will be applied in addition to the conversion charge. CLEC will receive a wholesale discount on all non-recurring service order charges for the services listed in Appendix Pricing under the heading “Resale;” no wholesale discount is available for the non-recurring service order charges for those services listed in Appendix Pricing under the heading “Other (Resale).”
- 14.4 For the purposes of ordering service furnished under this Agreement, each request for new service (that is, service not currently being provided to the End User on **SBC-13STATE**’s network, without regard to the identity of that End User’s non-facilities based local service provider of record) shall be handled as a separate initial request for service and shall be charged per billable telephone number.
- 14.5 Where available, the tariff retail additional line rate for Service Order Charges, shall apply only to those requests for additional residential service at the End User premises to which a residential line is currently provided on **SBC-13STATE**’s network, without regard to the identity of that End User’s non-facilities based local service provider of record.

15. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

15.1 Finality of Disputes

- 15.1.1 Except as otherwise specifically provided for in this Agreement, no claim may be brought for any dispute arising from this Agreement more than twenty-four (24) months from the date the occurrence which gives rise to the dispute is discovered or reasonably should have been discovered with the exercise of due care and attention.

15.1.2 Notwithstanding anything contained in this Agreement to the contrary, a Party shall be entitled to dispute only those charges for which the Bill Due Date occurred within the twelve (12) months immediately preceding the date on which the other Party received notice of such Disputed Amounts.

15.2 Alternative to Litigation

15.2.1 The Parties desire to resolve disputes arising out of this Agreement without litigation. Accordingly, the Parties agree to use the following Dispute Resolution procedures with respect to any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Agreement or its breach.

15.3 Commencing Dispute Resolution

15.3.1 Dispute Resolution shall commence upon one Party's receipt of written notice of a controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Agreement or its breach. No Party may pursue any claim unless such written notice has first been given to the other Party. There are three (3) separate Dispute Resolution methods:

15.3.1.1 Service Center / LSC Dispute Resolution,

15.3.1.2 Informal Dispute Resolution; and

15.3.1.3 Formal Dispute Resolution,

each of which is described below.

15.4 LSC/Service Center Dispute Resolution - The following Dispute Resolution procedures will apply with respect to any billing dispute arising out of or relating to the Agreement.

15.4.1 If the written notice given pursuant to Section 15.3 discloses that a CLEC dispute relates to billing, then the procedures set forth in this Section 15.4 shall be used and the dispute shall first be referred to the appropriate **SBC-7STATE** Center [**SBC-AMERITECH** Service Center; **SBC-7STATE** Local Service Center (LSC)] for resolution. In order to resolve a billing dispute, CLEC shall furnish **SBC-7STATE** and **SBC-AMERITECH** written notice of (i) the date of the bill in question, (ii) CBA/ESBA/ASBS or BAN number of the bill in question, (iii) telephone number, circuit ID number or trunk number in question, (iv) any USOC information questioned, (v) amount billed (vi) amount in question and (vii) the reason that CLEC disputes the billed amount. To be deemed a "dispute" under this Section 15.4, CLEC must provide evidence that

it has established an interest bearing escrow account that complies with the requirements set forth in Section 9.3 of this Agreement and deposited all Unpaid Charges into that escrow account. Failure to provide the information and evidence required by this Section 15.4.1 not later than twenty-nine (29) days following the Bill Due Date shall constitute CLEC's irrevocable and full waiver of its right to dispute the subject charges.

15.4.2 The Parties shall attempt to resolve Disputed Amounts appearing on **SBC-7STATE**'s and **SBC-AMERITECH**'s current billing statements thirty (30) to sixty (60) calendar days from the Bill Due Date (provided the CLEC furnishes all requisite information and evidence under Section 15.4.1 by the Bill Due Date). If not resolved within thirty (30) calendar days, upon request, **SBC-7STATE** and **SBC-AMERITECH** will notify CLEC of the status of the dispute and the expected resolution date.

15.4.3 The Parties shall attempt to resolve Disputed Amounts appearing on statements prior to the current billing statement within thirty (30) to ninety (90) calendar days, but resolution may take longer depending on the complexity of the dispute. If not resolved within thirty (30) calendar days from the date notice of the Disputed Amounts was received (provided that CLEC furnishes all requisite information and evidence under Section 15.4.1), **SBC-7STATE** and **SBC-AMERITECH** will notify CLEC of the status of the dispute and the expected resolution date.

15.4.4 If CLEC is not satisfied by the resolution of the billing dispute under this Section 18.4, CLEC may notify **SBC-7STATE** and **SBC-AMERITECH** writing that it wishes to invoke the Informal Resolution of Disputes afforded pursuant to Section 18.5.

15.5 Informal Resolution of Disputes

15.5.1 Upon receipt by one Party of notice of a dispute by the other Party pursuant to Section 14.3 or Section 14.4.5, each Party will appoint a knowledgeable, responsible representative to meet and negotiate in good faith to resolve any dispute arising under this Agreement. The location, form, frequency, duration, and conclusion of these discussions will be left to the discretion of the representatives. Upon agreement, the representatives may utilize other alternative Dispute Resolution procedures such as mediation to assist in the negotiations. Discussions and the correspondence among the representatives for purposes of settlement are exempt from discovery and production and will not be admissible in the arbitration described below or in any lawsuit without the concurrence of both Parties. Documents identified in or provided with such

communications that were not prepared for purposes of the negotiations are not so exempted, and, if otherwise admissible, may be admitted in evidence in the arbitration or lawsuit.

15.6 Formal Dispute Resolution

15.6.1 If the Parties are unable to resolve the dispute through the informal procedure described in Section 15.5, then either Party may invoke the formal Dispute Resolution procedures described in this Section 15.6. Unless agreed among all Parties, formal Dispute Resolution procedures, including arbitration or other procedures as appropriate, may be invoked not earlier than sixty (60) calendar days after receipt of the letter initiating Dispute Resolution under Section 15.3.

15.6.2 Claims Subject to Mandatory Arbitration. The following claims, if not settled through informal Dispute Resolution, will be subject to mandatory arbitration pursuant to Section 15.7 below:

15.6.2.1 Each unresolved billing dispute involving one percent (1%) or less of the amounts charged to CLEC under this Agreement in the state in which the dispute arises during the twelve (12) months immediately preceding receipt of the letter initiating Dispute Resolution under Section 15.3. If CLEC has not been billed for a minimum of twelve (12) months immediately preceding receipt of the letter initiating Dispute Resolution under Section 15.3, the Parties will annualize the actual number of months billed.

15.6.3 Claims Subject to Elective Arbitration. Claims will be subject to elective arbitration pursuant to Section 15.7 if, and only if, the claim is not settled through informal Dispute Resolution and both Parties agree to arbitration. If both Parties do not agree to arbitration, then either Party may proceed with any remedy available to it pursuant to law, equity or agency mechanism.

15.6.4 Claims Not Subject to Arbitration. If the following claims are not resolved through informal Dispute Resolution, they will not be subject to arbitration and must be resolved through any remedy available to a Party pursuant to law, equity or agency mechanism.

15.6.4.1 Actions seeking a temporary restraining order or an injunction related to the purposes of this Agreement.

15.6.4.2 Actions to compel compliance with the Dispute Resolution process.

- 15.6.4.3 All claims arising under federal or state statute(s), including antitrust claims.

15.7 Arbitration

- 15.7.1 Disputes subject to mandatory or elective arbitration under the provisions of this Agreement will be submitted to a single arbitrator pursuant to the Commercial Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association or pursuant to such other provider of arbitration services or rules as the Parties may agree. The arbitrator shall be knowledgeable of telecommunications issues. Each arbitration will be held in **Dallas, Texas (SBC-SWBT); Chicago, Illinois (SBC-AMERITECH), San Francisco, California (PACIFIC); Reno, NEVADA (NEVADA)** as appropriate, unless the Parties agree otherwise. The arbitration hearing will be requested to commence within sixty (60) calendar days of the demand for arbitration. The arbitrator will control the scheduling so as to process the matter expeditiously. The Parties may submit written briefs upon a schedule determined by the arbitrator. The Parties will request that the arbitrator rule on the dispute by issuing a written opinion within thirty (30) calendar days after the close of hearings. The Federal Arbitration Act, 9 U.S.C. Secs. 1-16, not state law, shall govern the arbitrability of all disputes. The arbitrator will have no authority to award punitive damages, exemplary damages, Consequential Damages, multiple damages, or any other damages not measured by the prevailing Party's actual damages, and may not, in any event, make any ruling, finding or award that does not conform to the terms and conditions of this Agreement. The times specified in this Section may be extended or shortened upon mutual agreement of the Parties or by the arbitrator upon a showing of good cause. Each Party will bear its own costs of these procedures, including attorneys' fees. The Parties will equally split the fees of the arbitration and the arbitrator. The arbitrator's award shall be final and binding and may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof. Judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrator may be entered in any court having jurisdiction.

16. AUDITS – Applicable in **SBC-12STATE** only

- 16.1 Subject to the restrictions set forth in Section 27 and except as may be otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement, a Party (the **“Auditing Party”**) may audit the other Party's (the **“Audited Party”**) books, records, data and other documents, as provided herein, once annually, with the audit period commencing not earlier than the date on which services were first supplied under this Agreement (**“service start date”**) for the purpose of evaluating (i) the accuracy of Audited Party's billing and invoicing of the services provided hereunder and (ii) verification of compliance with any provision of

this Agreement that affects the accuracy of Auditing Party's billing and invoicing of the services provided to Audited Party hereunder. Notwithstanding the foregoing, an Auditing Party may audit the Audited Party's books, records and documents more than once annually if the previous audit found (i) previously uncorrected net variances or errors in invoices in Audited Party's favor with an aggregate value of at least five percent (5%) of the amounts payable by Auditing Party for audited services provided during the period covered by the audit or (ii) non-compliance by Audited Party with any provision of this Agreement affecting Auditing Party's billing and invoicing of the services provided to Audited Party with an aggregate value of at least five percent (5%) of the amounts payable by Audited Party for audited services provided during the period covered by the audit.

- 16.1.1 The scope of the audit shall be limited to the period which is the shorter of (i) the period subsequent to the last day of the period covered by the audit which was last performed (or if no audit has been performed, the service start date and (ii) the twelve (12) month period immediately preceding the date the Audited Party received notice of such requested audit, but in any event not prior to the service start date. Such audit shall begin no fewer than thirty (30) days after Audited Party receives a written notice requesting an audit and shall be completed no later than thirty (30) days after the start of such audit.
- 16.1.2 Such audit shall be conducted either by the Auditing Party's employee(s) or an independent auditor acceptable to both Parties; provided, however, if the Audited Party requests that an independent auditor be engaged and the Auditing Party agrees, the Audited Party shall pay one-quarter (1/4) of the independent auditor's fees and expenses. If an independent auditor is to be engaged, the Parties shall select an auditor by the thirtieth day following Audited Party's receipt of a written audit notice. Auditing Party shall cause the independent auditor to execute a nondisclosure agreement in a form agreed upon by the Parties.
- 16.1.3 Each audit shall be conducted on the premises of the Audited Party during normal business hours. Audited Party shall cooperate fully in any such audit and shall provide the auditor reasonable access to any and all appropriate Audited Party employees and any books, records and other documents reasonably necessary to assess (i) the accuracy of Audited Party's bills and (ii) Audited Party's compliance with the provisions of this Agreement that affect the accuracy of Auditing Party's billing and invoicing of the services provided to Audited Party hereunder. Audited Party may redact from the books, records and other documents provided to the auditor any Audited Party Proprietary Information that reveals the identity of End Users of Audited Party.

- 16.1.4 Each Party shall maintain reports, records and data relevant to the billing of any services that are the subject matter of this Agreement for a period of not less than twenty-four (24) months after creation thereof, unless a longer period is required by Applicable Law.
- 16.1.5 If any audit confirms any undercharge or overcharge, then Audited Party shall (i) promptly correct any billing error, including making refund of any overpayment by Auditing Party in the form of a credit on the invoice for the first full billing cycle after the Parties have agreed upon the accuracy of the audit results and (ii) for any undercharge caused by the actions of the Audited Party, immediately compensate Auditing Party for such undercharge, and (iii) in each case, calculate and pay interest as provided in Section 9.1.4 (depending on the **SBC** Parties and billing systems involved), for the number of days from the date on which such undercharge or overcharge originated until the date on which such credit is issued or payment is made and available.
- 16.1.6 Except as may be otherwise provided in this Agreement, audits shall be performed at Auditing Party's expense, subject to reimbursement by Audited Party of one-quarter (1/4) of any independent auditor's fees and expenses in the event that an audit finds, and the Parties subsequently verify, a net adjustment in the charges paid or payable by Auditing Party hereunder by an amount that is, on an annualized basis, greater than five percent (5%) of the aggregate charges for the audited services during the period covered by the audit.
- 16.1.7 Any disputes concerning audit results shall be referred to the Parties' respective personnel responsible for informal resolution. If these individuals cannot resolve the dispute within thirty (30) days of the referral, either Party may request in writing that an additional audit shall be conducted by an independent auditor acceptable to both Parties, subject to the requirements set out in Section 16.1. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Agreement to the contrary, any additional audit shall be at the requesting Party's expense.

16.2 Audits - **SNET** only

- 16.2.1 **SNET** shall arrange for one (1) annual independent audit to be conducted by a "Big Six" independent public accounting firm or an accounting firm mutually agreed to by **SNET**, CLEC and all other local service providers doing business with **SNET** under the terms of an agreement adopted pursuant to Sections 251 and 252 of the Act for the purpose of evaluating the accuracy of **SNET**'s billing and invoicing.

16.2.2 **SNET** will cooperate fully with the independent auditor in such audit and provide reasonable access to any and all appropriate **SNET** employees, books, records and other documents reasonably necessary to perform the audit.

16.2.3 **SNET** shall promptly correct any billing error that is revealed in the audit, including making refund of any overpayment to CLEC in the form of a credit on the invoice for the first full billing cycle after the audit report is issued; such refund shall include interest on the overpayment at the rate of eight percent (8%) per year. In the event that the audit reveals any underbilling and resulting underpayment to **SNET** by CLEC, the underpayment shall be reflected in CLEC's invoice for the first full billing cycle after the audit report is issued. **SNET** will not be entitled to recover interest on any underbilling to CLEC revealed by the audit for the time preceding the amount appearing on CLEC's bill from **SNET**, however, **SNET** shall be entitled to recover interest at the interest rate referenced in Section 9.1.4.1 on such underbilling and CLEC shall pay interest for the number of days from the Bill Due Date of the bill on which such underbilling was rectified until the date on which payment is made and available to **SNET**.

17. RESPONSIBILITIES OF SWBT

17.1 **SBC-13STATE** shall allow CLEC to place service orders and receive phone number assignments (for new lines). These activities shall be accomplished by facsimile or electronic interface. **SBC-13STATE** shall provide interface specifications for electronic access for these functions to CLEC. However, CLEC shall be responsible for modifying and connecting any of its systems with **SBC-13STATE**-provided interfaces, as outlined in Appendix OSS.

17.2 **SBC-13STATE** shall implement CLEC service orders within the same time intervals **SBC-13STATE** uses to implement service orders for similar services for its own End Users.

17.2.1 Methods and procedures for ordering are outlined in the Customer Handbook, available on-line, as amended by **SBC-13STATE** in its sole discretion from time to time. All Parties agree to abide by the procedures contained therein.

17.3 CLEC will have the ability to report trouble for its End Users to appropriate **SBC-13STATE** trouble reporting center(s) twenty-four (24) hours a day, 7 days a week. CLEC will be assigned customer contact center(s) when initial service agreements are made. CLEC End Users calling **SBC-13STATE** for service will be referred to CLEC at the number provided by CLEC. Nothing herein shall be interpreted to authorize

CLEC to repair, maintain, or in any way touch **SBC-13STATE**'s network facilities, including those on End User premises.

17.3.1 Methods and procedures for trouble reporting are outlined in the CLEC Handbook, available on-line, as amended by **SBC-13STATE** in its sole discretion from time to time. All Parties agree to abide by the procedures contained therein.

17.4 **SBC-13STATE** will provide CLEC with detailed billing information necessary for CLEC to issue bill(s) to its End User(s). CLEC has the option of receiving a daily usage file ("DUF") in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in Section 9.8. Should CLEC elect to subscribe to the DUF, CLEC agrees to pay **SBC-13STATE** the charges specified in Appendix Pricing under the "Other (Resale)" category listed as "Electronic Billing Information Data (daily usage) (per message)."

17.5 **SBC-13STATE** shall make Telecommunications Services that **SBC-13STATE** provides at retail to subscribers who are not Telecommunications Carriers available for resale consistent with the obligation under Section 251(c)(4)(A) of the Act and other applicable limitations. **SBC-13STATE** will notify CLEC of any changes in the terms and conditions under which **SBC-13STATE** offers Telecommunications Services at retail to subscribers who are not Telecommunications Carriers, including but not limited to, the introduction of any new features, functions, services, promotions, grandfathering or the discontinuance of current features or services at the time a tariff filing is transmitted to the appropriate State Commission, or, in situations where a tariff filing is not so transmitted, within sixty (60) calendar days of the expected effective date of such change.

17.5.1 **SBC-13STATE** currently makes such notification as described in Section 24. Notification of any new service available to CLEC for resale shall advise CLEC of the category in which such new service shall be placed, and the same discount already applicable to CLEC in that category shall apply to the new service.

17.6 CLEC's End User's activation of Call Trace shall be handled by the **SBC-13STATE** operations center(s) responsible for handling such requests. **SBC-13STATE** shall notify CLEC of requests by its End Users to provide call records to the proper authorities. Subsequent communication and resolution of each case involving one of CLEC's End Users (whether that End User is the victim or the suspect) will be coordinated through CLEC.

17.6.1 CLEC acknowledges that for services where reports are provided to law enforcement agencies (for example, Call Trace) only billing number and address information shall be provided. It shall be CLEC's responsibility to provide additional information necessary for any police investigation.

17.6.1.1 In addition to any other indemnity obligations in this Agreement or any Appendix attached hereto, CLEC shall indemnify **SBC-13STATE** against any Claim that insufficient information led to inadequate prosecution.

17.6.2 **SBC-13STATE** shall handle law enforcement requests consistent with the Law Enforcement Section of this Agreement.

17.7 This section applies only to **PACIFIC**:

17.7.1 **PACIFIC** will make available to CLEC an optional service, Repair Transfer Service ("RTS"). In the event a CLEC's End User dials 611 (811-8081 for Priority Business customers) for repair, **PACIFIC** will provide a recorded announcement of the CLEC name and number and **PACIFIC** will automatically transfer the caller to the CLEC designated 800/888 number for repair service. CLEC must provide written notification to **PACIFIC** at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to the implementation of RTS. Written notification must include the CLEC name and 800/888 numbers for RTS to the CLEC repair bureau and business office. There will be no charges associated with the initial set-up for RTS, however, charges will apply to any subsequent changes to the recorded name announcement and telephone number. Rates for subsequent changes are set forth in the Appendix PRICING in the "Other (Resale)" category listed as "Repair Transfer Service." Subsequent charges include: Recorded Name Announcement, 800/888 Telephone Number and Name Announcement & Telephone Number.

18. DISCLAIMER OF REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES

18.1 EXCEPT AS EXPRESSLY PROVIDED UNDER THIS AGREEMENT, NO PARTY MAKES OR RECEIVES ANY WARRANTY, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, WITH RESPECT TO THE SERVICES, FUNCTIONS, FACILITIES AND PRODUCTS IT PROVIDES UNDER OR IS CONTEMPLATED TO PROVIDE UNDER THIS AGREEMENT AND EACH PARTY DISCLAIMS THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND/OR OF FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. ADDITIONALLY, NEITHER

SBC NOR CLEC ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITY WITH REGARD TO THE CORRECTNESS OF DATA OR INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY THE OTHER WHEN THIS DATA OR INFORMATION IS ACCESSED AND USED BY A THIRD PARTY.

19. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

- 19.1 Except for indemnity obligations expressly set forth herein or as otherwise expressly provided in specific appendices, each Party's liability to the other Party for any Loss relating to or arising out of such Party's performance under this Agreement, including any negligent act or omission (whether willful or inadvertent), whether in contract, tort or otherwise, including alleged breaches of this Agreement and causes of action alleged to arise from allegations that breach of this Agreement also constitute a violation of a statute, including the Act, shall not exceed in total the amount **SBC-13STATE** or CLEC has charged or would have charged to the other Party for the services, functions, facilities and products that were not performed or were improperly performed.
- 19.2 Except as otherwise expressly provided in specific appendices, in the case of any Loss alleged or claimed by a Third Party to have arisen out of the negligence or willful misconduct of any Party, each Party shall bear, and its obligation shall be limited to, that portion (as mutually agreed to by the Parties or as otherwise established) of the resulting expense caused by its own negligence or willful misconduct or that of its agents, servants, contractors, or others acting in aid or concert with it.
- 19.3 A Party may, in its sole discretion, provide in its tariffs and contracts with its End Users or Third Parties that relate to any services, functions, facilities and products provided or contemplated under this Agreement that, to the maximum extent permitted by Applicable Law, such Party shall not be liable to such End User or Third Party for (i) any Loss relating to or arising out of this Agreement, whether in contract, tort or otherwise, that exceeds the amount such Party would have charged the End User or Third Party for the services, functions, facilities and products that gave rise to such Loss and (ii) any Consequential Damages. If a Party elects not to place in its tariffs or contracts such limitation(s) of liability, and the other Party incurs a Loss as a result thereof, the first Party shall indemnify and reimburse the other Party for that portion of the Loss that would have been limited had the first Party included in its tariffs and contracts the limitation(s) of liability described in this Section 19.3.
- 19.4 Neither CLEC nor **SBC-13STATE** shall be liable to the other Party for any Consequential Damages suffered by the other Party, regardless of the form of action, whether in contract, warranty, strict liability, tort or otherwise, including negligence of any kind, whether active or passive (and including alleged breaches of this Agreement

and causes of action alleged to arise from allegations that breach of this Agreement constitutes a violation of the Act or other statute), and regardless of whether the Parties knew or had been advised of the possibility that such damages could result in connection with or arising from anything said, omitted, or done hereunder or related hereto, including willful acts or omissions; provided that the foregoing shall not limit a Party's obligation under Section 21 to indemnify, defend, and hold the other Party harmless against any amounts payable to a Third Party, including any Losses, and Consequential Damages of such Third Party; provided, however, that nothing in this Section 19.4 shall impose indemnity obligations on a Party for any Loss or Consequential Damages suffered by a Party's End User in connection with any affected services, functions, facilities and products. Except as provided in the prior sentence, each Party hereby releases and holds harmless the other Party (and such other Party's Affiliates, and their respective officers, directors, employees and agents) from any such Claim.

- 19.5 **SBC-13STATE** shall not be liable for damages to an End User's premises resulting from the furnishing of any services, functions, facilities and products, including, if applicable, the installation and removal of equipment and associated wiring, unless the damage is caused by **SBC-13STATE**'s gross negligence or willful misconduct. **SBC-13STATE** does not guarantee or make any warranty with respect to services, functions, facilities and products when used in an explosive atmosphere.
- 19.6 CLEC hereby releases **SBC-13STATE** from any and all liability for damages due to errors or omissions in CLEC's End User listing information as provided by CLEC to **SBC-13STATE** under this Agreement, including any errors or omissions occurring in CLEC's End User listing information as it appears in the White Pages directory, including, but not limited to, special, indirect, Consequential, punitive or incidental damages.
- 19.7 **SBC-13 STATE** shall not be liable to CLEC, its End User or any other Person for any Loss alleged to arise out of the provision of access to 911 service or any errors, interruptions, defects, failures or malfunctions of 911 service.
- 19.8 This Section 19 is not intended to exempt any Party from all liability under this Agreement, but only to set forth the scope of liability agreed to and the type of damages that are recoverable. Both Parties acknowledge that they negotiated regarding alternate limitation of liability provisions but that such provisions would have altered the cost, and thus the price, of providing the services, functions, facilities and products available hereunder, and no different pricing reflecting different costs and different limits of liability was agreed to.

20. RESPONSIBILITIES OF CLEC

20.1 CLEC is solely responsible for the payment of all charges for all services furnished under this Agreement, including but not limited to, calls originated or accepted at CLEC's location and its End Users' service locations; provided, however, CLEC shall not be responsible for payment of charges for any retail services furnished by **SBC-13STATE** directly to End Users and billed by **SBC-13STATE** directly to End Users.

20.1.1 Interexchange carried traffic (for example, sent-paid, information services and alternate operator services messages) received by **SBC-13STATE** for billing to resold End User accounts will be returned as unbillable and will not be passed to CLEC for billing. An unbillable code will be returned with those messages to the carrier indicating that the messages originated from a resold account and will not be billed by **SBC-13STATE**.

20.2 **SBC-13STATE** shall not be responsible for the manner in which utilization of resold services or the associated charges are allocated to End Users or others by CLEC. All applicable rates and charges for services provided to CLEC under this Agreement will be billed directly to CLEC and shall be the responsibility of CLEC; provided, however, that CLEC shall not be responsible for payment of charges for any retail services furnished by **SBC-13STATE** directly to End Users and billed by **SBC-13STATE** directly to End Users.

20.2.1 Charges billed to CLEC for all services provided under this Agreement shall be paid by CLEC regardless of CLEC's ability or inability to collect from its End User(s) for such services.

20.3 If CLEC does not wish to be responsible for payment of charges for collect, third number billed, toll and information services (for example, 900) calls, it must order the appropriate blocking for lines provided under this Agreement and pay any applicable charges. It is the responsibility of CLEC to order the appropriate toll restriction or blocking on lines resold to End Users. CLEC acknowledges that blocking is not available for certain types of calls, including 800, 888, 411 and Directory Assistance Express Call Completion. Depending on the origination point, for example, calls originating from correctional facilities, some calls may bypass blocking systems. CLEC acknowledges all such limitations and accepts all responsibility for any charges associated with calls for which blocking is not available and any charges associated with calls that bypass blocking systems.

20.4 CLEC shall be responsible for modifying and connecting any of its systems with **SBC-13STATE**-provided interfaces as described in this Agreement and Appendix OSS to this Agreement.

- 20.5 CLEC shall be responsible for providing to its End Users and to **SBC-13STATE** a telephone number or numbers that CLEC's End Users may use to contact CLEC in the event that the End User desires a repair/service call.
- 20.5.1 In the event that CLEC's End Users contact **SBC-13STATE** with regard to repair requests, **SBC-13STATE** shall inform such End Users to call CLEC and will provide CLEC's contact number furnished by CLEC.
- 20.6 CLEC acknowledges and agrees that, in the event CLEC makes any "CLEC Change" as that term is defined in Section 5.3, CLEC shall comply with the provisions set forth in Section 5.3.
- 20.7 For the purposes of establishing, provisioning and billing services to be furnished CLEC under this Agreement, prior to the Effective Date, CLEC shall provide **SBC-13STATE** with CLEC's authorized and nationally recognized distinct Company Code/Operating Company Number ("OCN")/Alternate Exchange Carrier Number ("AECN") for resale of services.
- 20.8 CLEC will provide forecasts to **SBC-13STATE** every January and July using the **SBC-13STATE** network information form, or a format mutually agreed to by the Parties. These written forecasts will be based on CLEC's best estimates and will include all resale products CLEC will be ordering within the forecast period.
- 20.9 On no less than sixty (60) calendar days advance written notice, CLEC may, at its option, subscribe to the Local Disconnect Report ("LDR"). **SBC-13STATE** will furnish the following information via the LDR: the Billing Telephone Number ("BTN"), Working Telephone Number "WTN"), and terminal number of all End Users who have disconnected CLEC's service. Information furnished electronically will be provided daily on a per WTN basis and priced on a per WTN basis. CLEC shall pay **SBC-13STATE** for the LDR per WTN plus any applicable transmission charges for the LDR; current WTN prices are as set forth in Appendix Pricing in the "Other (Resale)" category, listed as "Local Disconnect Report."
- 20.9.1 CLEC agrees that **SBC-13STATE** may change the per WTN charge, at **SBC-13STATE**'s sole discretion, so long as **SBC-13STATE** provides CLEC no less than thirty (30) calendar days notice prior to any change in the per WTN charge.
- 20.9.2 **SBC-13STATE** grants to CLEC a non-exclusive right to use the LDR information provided by **SBC-13STATE**. CLEC will not permit anyone but its duly authorized employees or agents to inspect or use this information.

21. INDEMNITY

- 21.1 Except as otherwise expressly provided herein or in specific appendices, each Party shall be responsible only for the services, functions, facilities and products that are provided by that Party, its authorized agents, subcontractors, or others retained by such Parties, and neither Party shall bear any responsibility for the services, functions, facilities and products provided by the other Party, its agents, subcontractors, or others retained by such Parties.
- 21.2 Except as otherwise expressly provided herein or in specific appendices, and to the extent not prohibited by Applicable Law and not otherwise controlled by tariff, each Party (the **“Indemnifying Party”**) shall release, indemnify, hold harmless and defend the other Party (the **“Indemnified Party”**) against any Loss to a Third Party arising out of the negligence or willful misconduct (**“Fault”**) of such Indemnifying Party, its agents, its End Users, contractors, or others retained by such Parties, in connection with the Indemnifying Party’s provision of services, functions, facilities and products under this Agreement; provided, however, that (i) with respect to employees or agents of the Indemnifying Party, such Fault occurs while performing within the scope of their employment, (ii) with respect to subcontractors of the Indemnifying Party, such Fault occurs in the course of performing duties of the subcontractor under its subcontract with the Indemnifying Party, and (iii) with respect to the Fault of employees or agents of such subcontractor, such Fault occurs while performing within the scope of their employment by the subcontractor with respect to such duties of the subcontractor under the subcontract.
- 21.3 In the case of any Loss alleged or claimed by an End User of either Party, the Party whose End User alleged or claimed such Loss (the **“Indemnifying Party”**) shall release, indemnify, hold harmless and defend the other Party (the **“Indemnified Party”**) against any and all such Claims or Losses by its End User regardless of whether the underlying service, function, facility or product giving rise to such Claim or Loss was provided or provisioned by the Indemnified Party, unless the Claim or Loss was caused by the gross negligence or willful misconduct of the Indemnified Party.
- 21.4 A Party (the **“Indemnifying Party”**) shall release, indemnify, hold harmless and defend the other Party (**“Indemnified Party”**) against any Claim or Loss arising from the Indemnifying Party’s use or resale of services, functions, facilities and products provided under this Agreement involving:
- 21.4.1 any Claim or Loss arising from such Indemnifying Party’s use or resale of services, functions, facilities and products provided under this Agreement, involving any Claim for libel, slander, or invasion of privacy arising from the

Indemnifying Party's own communications or the communications of such Indemnifying Party's End Users.

21.4.1.1 The foregoing includes any Claims or Losses arising from disclosure of any End User-specific information associated with either the originating or terminating numbers used to provision services, functions, facilities and products provided hereunder and all other Claims arising out of any act or omission of the End User in the course of using any services, functions, facilities or products provided pursuant to this Agreement.

21.4.2 any and all penalties imposed on either Party because of the Indemnifying Party's failure to comply with the Communications Assistance to Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (**CALEA**); provided that the Indemnifying Party shall also, at its sole cost and expense, pay any amounts necessary to modify or replace any service, product or equipment provided to the Indemnified Party under this Agreement to ensure that such services, products and equipment fully comply with CALEA.

21.5 In addition to any other indemnity obligations contained in this Agreement, CLEC shall release, indemnify, protect, save harmless and defend **SBC-13STATE** from and against any and all Losses, costs, liability, damages and expense (including reasonable attorney's fees) arising out of any demand, Claim, suit or judgment by any Third Party, including a PSP, in any way relating to or arising from any of the following:

21.5.1 CLEC's failure to comply with all the terms and conditions of this Agreement;
or

21.5.2 Use by a PSP customer of CLEC of any service other than a Payphone Line to provide pay telephone service; or

21.5.3 False representation by CLEC.

21.6 In addition to any other indemnity obligations contained in this Agreement, CLEC shall release, indemnify, protect, hold harmless and defend **SBC-13STATE** from and against any and all Losses, liability, damages and expense arising out of any demand, Claim, suit or judgment by a Third Party in any way related to any error or omission in CLEC's End User listing information, including any error or omission related to non-published or non-listed End User listing information. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Agreement to the contrary, if such demand, claim or suit specifically alleges that an error or omission appears in CLEC's End User listing information in the White Pages directory, **SBC-13STATE** may, at its option, assume and undertake its own defense,

or assist in the defense of CLEC, in which event CLEC shall reimburse **SBC-13STATE** for reasonable attorney's fees and other expenses incurred by **SBC-13STATE** in handling and defending such demand, claim and/or suit.

- 21.7 In addition to any other indemnity obligations contained in this Agreement, CLEC shall release, indemnify, protect, hold harmless and defend **SBC-13STATE** from any Loss arising out of **SBC-13STATE**'s provision of access to 911 service or CLEC's End Users' use of 911 service, whether suffered, made, instituted or asserted by CLEC, its End User, or by any other Person, for any personal injury or death of any Person(s) or for any loss, damage or destruction of any property, whether owned by CLEC, its End User or any other Person, unless the act or omission proximately causing the Loss constitutes gross negligence, recklessness or intentional misconduct of **SBC-13STATE**.
- 21.8 In addition to any other indemnity obligations contained in this Agreement, CLEC shall release, indemnify, protect, hold harmless and defend **SBC-13STATE** from any Loss involving an allegation of the infringement or invasion of the right of privacy or confidentiality of any Person caused or claimed to have been caused, directly or indirectly, by the installation, operation, failure to operate, maintenance, removal, presence, condition, occasion or use of the 911 service features and the equipment associated therewith, including the identification of the telephone number, address or name associated with the telephone used by the Person accessing 911 service, unless the act or omission proximately causing the Loss constitutes gross negligence, recklessness or intentional misconduct of **SBC-13-STATE**.
- 21.9 CLEC acknowledges that its rights under this Agreement to may be subject to or limited by Intellectual Property rights and contract rights of Third Parties.
- 21.10 Subject to **SBC-13STATE**'s obligations under any Commission decision and except as expressly stated in this Agreement, CLEC shall release, indemnify, hold harmless and defend **SBC-13STATE** from and against all Losses arising out of, caused by, or relating to any real or potential claim that CLEC's use of services, functions, facilities or products furnished under this Agreement violates or infringes upon any Third Party Intellectual Property rights or constitutes a breach of contract. In no event shall **SBC-13STATE** be liable for any actual or Consequential Damages that CLEC may suffer arising out of same.
- 21.11 CLEC shall reimburse **SBC-13STATE** for damages to **SBC-13STATE**'s services, functions, facilities or products furnished hereunder caused by the negligence or willful act of CLEC, its agents or subcontractors or CLEC's End User or resulting from CLEC's improper use of services, functions, facilities or products furnished under this Agreement or due to malfunction of any services, functions, facilities, products or equipment provided by any Person other than **SBC-13STATE**. Upon reimbursement

for damages, **SBC-13STATE** will cooperate with CLEC in prosecuting a claim against the Person causing such damage. CLEC shall be subrogated to the right of recovery by **SBC-13STATE** for the damages to the extent of such payment.

21.12 Indemnification Procedures

- 21.12.1 Whenever a claim shall arise for indemnification under this Section 21, the relevant Indemnified Party, as appropriate, shall promptly notify the Indemnifying Party and request in writing the Indemnifying Party to defend the same. Failure to so notify the Indemnifying Party shall not relieve the Indemnifying Party of any liability that the Indemnifying Party might have, except to the extent that such failure prejudices the Indemnifying Party's ability to defend such claim.
- 21.12.2 The Indemnifying Party shall have the right to defend against such liability or assertion, in which event the Indemnifying Party shall give written notice to the Indemnified Party of acceptance of the defense of such claim and the identity of counsel selected by the Indemnifying Party.
- 21.12.3 Until such time as Indemnifying Party provides written notice of acceptance of the defense of such claim, the Indemnified Party shall defend such claim, at the expense of the Indemnifying Party, subject to any right of the Indemnifying Party to seek reimbursement for the costs of such defense in the event that it is determined that Indemnifying Party had no obligation to indemnify the Indemnified Party for such claim.
- 21.12.4 Upon accepting the defense, the Indemnifying Party shall have exclusive right to control and conduct the defense and settlement of any such claim, subject to consultation with the Indemnified Party. So long as the Indemnifying Party is controlling and conducting the defense, the Indemnifying Party shall not be liable for any settlement by the Indemnified Party unless such Indemnifying Party has approved such settlement in advance and agrees to be bound by the agreement incorporating such settlement.
- 21.12.5 At any time, an Indemnified Party shall have the right to refuse a compromise or settlement, and, at such refusing Party's cost, to take over such defense; provided that, in such event the Indemnifying Party shall not be responsible for, nor shall it be obligated to indemnify the refusing Party against, any cost or liability in excess of such refused compromise or settlement.
- 21.12.6 With respect to any defense accepted by the Indemnifying Party, the Indemnified Party will be entitled to participate with the Indemnifying Party in such defense if the claim requests equitable relief or other relief that could

affect the rights of the Indemnified Party, and shall also be entitled to employ separate counsel for such defense at such Indemnified Party's expense.

- 21.12.7 If the Indemnifying Party does not accept the defense of any indemnified claim as provided above, the Indemnified Party shall have the right to employ counsel for such defense at the expense of the Indemnifying Party.
- 21.12.8 In the event of a failure to assume the defense, the Indemnified Party may negotiate a settlement, which shall be presented to the Indemnifying Party. If the Indemnifying Party refuses to agree to the presented settlement, the Indemnifying Party may take over the defense. If the Indemnifying Party refuses to agree to the presented settlement and refuses to take over the defense, the Indemnifying Party shall be liable for any reasonable cash settlement not involving any admission of liability by the Indemnifying Party, though such settlement may have been made by the Indemnified Party without approval of the Indemnifying Party, it being the Parties' intent that no settlement involving a non-monetary concession by the Indemnifying Party, including an admission of liability by such Party, shall take effect without the written approval of the Indemnifying Party.
- 21.12.9 Each Party agrees to cooperate and to cause its employees and agents to cooperate with the other Party in the defense of any such claim and the relevant records of each Party shall be available to the other Party with respect to any such defense, subject to the restrictions and limitations set forth in Section 27.

22. PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- 22.1 Attachment Performance Measures provides monetary payments for failure to meet specified performance standards. The provisions of that Attachment constitute the sole obligation of **SBC-13STATE** to pay damages or financial penalties for failure to meet specified performance standards identified in such Attachment and all other Attachments to this Agreement.

23. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**23.1 Intellectual Property - SBC-8STATE**

23.1.1 Any Intellectual Property that originates from or is developed by a Party shall remain in the exclusive ownership of that Party.

24. NOTICES

24.1 Subject to Section 24.2, notices given by one Party to the other Party under this Agreement shall be in writing (unless specifically provided otherwise herein), and unless otherwise expressly required by this Agreement to be delivered to another representative or point of contact, shall be

24.1.1 delivered personally;

24.1.2 delivered by express overnight delivery service;

24.1.3 mailed, via certified mail or first class U.S. Postal Service, with postage prepaid, and a return receipt requested; or

24.1.4 delivered by facsimile; provided that a paper copy is also sent by a method described in (a), (b) or (c) of this Section 24.

24.1.5 Notices will be deemed given as of the earliest of:

24.1.5.1 the date of actual receipt,

24.1.5.2 the next Business Day when sent via express overnight delivery service,

24.1.5.3 five (5) days after mailing in the case of first class or certified U.S. Postal Service, or

24.1.5.4 on the date set forth on the confirmation produced by the sending facsimile machine when delivered by facsimile prior to 5:00 p.m. in the recipient's time zone, but the next Business Day when delivered by facsimile at 5:00 p.m. or later in the recipient's time zone.

24.1.6 Notices will be addressed to the Parties as follows:

NOTICE CONTACT	CLEC CONTACT	<u>SBC-13STATE</u> CONTACT
NAME/TITLE	Jerry E. Holt President/CEO	Contract Administration ATTN: Notices Manager
STREET ADDRESS	1424 E. 53 rd Street Suite 210	311 S. Akard, 9 th Floor Four Bell Plaza
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE	Chicago, IL 60615	Dallas, TX 75202-5398
FACSIMILE NUMBER	773-947-0218	214-464-2006

24.1.7 Either Party may unilaterally change its designated contact, address, telephone number and/or facsimile number for the receipt of notices by giving written notice to the other Party in compliance with this Section. Any notice to change the designated contact, address, telephone and/or facsimile number for the receipt of notices shall be deemed effective ten (10) days following receipt by the other Party.

24.2 **SBC-8STATE** communicates official information to CLECs via its Accessible Letter notification process. This process covers a variety of subjects, including updates on products/services promotions; deployment of new products/services; modifications and price changes to existing products/services; cancellation or retirement of existing products/services; and operational issues.

24.2.1 In **SBC-8STATES**, CLEC may elect in writing to receive Accessible Letter notification via electronic mail (“**e-mail**”) distribution, either in lieu of or in addition to United States Postal Service (postage prepaid) distribution. CLEC acknowledges that United States Postal Service (postage prepaid) delivery will delay receipt of the information for a minimum of three (3) to five (5) days from the date the information is made available via e-mail. Accessible Letter notification via e-mail will be deemed given as of the earlier of the date of actual receipt and the date set forth on the e-mail receipt.

24.2.2 In **SBC-8STATE**, CLEC may designate an unlimited number of recipients for Accessible Letter notification via e-mail, but CLEC is limited to designating a maximum of four (4) recipients (in addition to the CLEC contact designated in Section 24.1) for Accessible Letter notification via United States Postal Service (postage prepaid).

24.2.3 In **SBC-8STATE**, CLEC shall submit a completed Notices / Accessible Letter Recipient Change Request Form (available on the applicable **SBC-8STATE**'s CLEC Handbook website) to the individual specified on that form to designate in writing each individual (other than the CLEC contact designated in Section 24.1) to whom CLEC requests Accessible Letter notification be sent, whether via e-mail or United States Postal Service. CLEC shall submit a completed Notices / Accessible Letter Recipient Change Request Form to add, remove or change recipient information for any CLEC recipient of Accessible Letters (other than the CLEC contact designated in Section 24.1). Any completed Notices / Accessible Letter Recipient Change Request Form shall be deemed effective ten (10) days following receipt by **SBC-8STATE**.

24.3 **SBC-SWBT only:**

24.3.1 **SBC-SWBT** shall provide a toll free facsimile number to CLEC for the submission of requests for services under this Agreement; CLEC shall provide **SBC-SWBT** with a toll free facsimile number for notices from **SBC-SWBT** relating to requests for services under this Agreement.

24.4 **SBC-AMERITECH only:**

24.4.1 **SBC-AMERITECH** communicates official information to CLECs via its TCNet notification process. This process covers a variety of subjects, including updates on products/services promotions; deployment of new products/services; modifications and price changes to existing products/services; cancellation or retirement of existing products/services; and operational issues.

25. PUBLICITY AND USE OF TRADEMARKS OR SERVICE MARKS

25.1 Neither Party nor its subcontractors or agents shall use in any advertising or sales promotion, press releases, or other publicity matters any endorsements, direct or indirect quotes, or pictures that imply endorsement by the other Party or any of its employees without such first Party's prior written approval. The Parties will submit to each other for written approval, prior to publication, all publicity matters that mention or display one another's name and/or marks or contain language from which a connection to said name and/or marks may be inferred or implied; the Party to whom a request is directed shall respond promptly. Nothing herein, however, shall be construed as preventing either Party from publicly stating the fact that it has executed this Agreement with the other Party. 25.2 Nothing in this Agreement shall grant, suggest, or imply any authority for one Party to use the name, trademarks, service marks, logos, proprietary trade dress or trade names of the other Party in any advertising, press releases, publicity

matters, marketing and/or promotional materials or for any other commercial purpose without prior written approval from such other Party.

26. NO LICENSE

26.1 Except at otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement, no license under patents, copyrights or any other Intellectual Property right (other than the limited license to use consistent with the terms, conditions and restrictions of this Agreement) is granted by either Party or shall be implied or arise by estoppel with respect to any transactions contemplated under this Agreement.

27. CONFIDENTIALITY

27.1 All information, including specifications, microfilm, photocopies, magnetic disks, magnetic tapes, audit information, models, system interfaces, forecasts, computer programs, software, documentation, drawings, sketches, models, samples, tools, technical information, data, employee records, maps, financial reports, and market data shall be deemed “Confidential” or “Proprietary” (**collectively “Proprietary Information”**) if:

27.1.1 Furnished or made available or otherwise disclosed by one Party (the **“Disclosing Party”**) or its agent, employee, representative or Affiliate to the other Party (the **“Receiving Party”**) or its agent, employee, representative or Affiliate dealing with End User-specific, facility-specific, or usage-specific information, other than End User information communicated for the purpose of publication or directory database inclusion, 911, call processing, billing or for such other purposes as mutually agreed upon;

27.1.2 In written, graphic, electromagnetic, or other tangible form and marked at the time of delivery as "Confidential" or "Proprietary;" or

27.1.3 Communicated orally and declared to the Receiving Party at the time of delivery to be "Confidential" or "Proprietary", and which shall be summarized in writing and marked "Confidential" or "Proprietary" and delivered to the Receiving Party within ten (10) days following such disclosure; and

27.1.4 Any portion of any notes, analyses, data, compilations, studies, interpretations or other documents prepared by any Receiving Party to the extent the same contain, reflect, are derived from, or are based upon, any of the information described in this Section 27, unless such information contained or reflected in such notes, analyses, etc. is so commingled with the Receiving Party's information that disclosure could not possibly disclose the underlying proprietary

or confidential information (such portions of such notes, analyses, etc. referred to herein as **“Derivative Information”**).

27.2 Proprietary Information Shall be Held in Confidence

27.2.1 Each Receiving Party agrees that:

- 27.2.1.1 all Proprietary Information communicated to it or any of its agents, employees, representatives and Affiliates in connection with this Agreement shall be held in confidence to the same extent as such Receiving Party holds its own confidential information of like importance; provided that such Receiving Party and its agents, employees, representatives and Affiliates shall not use less than a reasonable standard of care in maintaining the confidentiality of such information;
- 27.2.1.2 it will not, and it will not permit any of its agents, employees, representatives and Affiliates to disclose such Proprietary Information to any Third Party;
- 27.2.1.3 it will disclose Proprietary Information only to those of its agents, employees, representatives and Affiliates who have a need for it in connection with the use or provision of any services furnished under this Agreement; and
- 27.2.1.4 it will, and will cause each of its agents, employees, representatives and Affiliates, to use such Proprietary Information only to perform its obligations under this Agreement or to use services provided by the Disclosing Party hereunder and for no other purpose, including its own marketing purposes.

27.2.2 A Receiving Party may disclose Proprietary Information of a Disclosing Party to the Receiving Party's agents, employees, representatives and Affiliates who need to know such information to perform their obligations under this Agreement; provided that before disclosing any Proprietary Information to any agent, employee, representative or Affiliate, the Receiving Party shall notify such agent, employee, representative or Affiliate of such Party's obligation to comply with this Agreement. Any Receiving Party so disclosing Proprietary Information shall be jointly and severally liable for any breach of this Agreement by any of its agents, employees, representatives and Affiliates and such Receiving Party agrees, at its sole expense, to use its reasonable efforts (including court proceedings) to restrain its agents, employees, representatives and Affiliates

from any prohibited or unauthorized disclosure or use of the Proprietary Information. Each Receiving Party making such disclosure shall notify the Disclosing Party as soon as possible if it has knowledge of a breach of this Agreement in any material respect. A Disclosing Party shall not disclose Proprietary Information directly to an agent, employee, representative or Affiliate of the Receiving Party without the prior written authorization of the Receiving Party.

27.2.3 Proprietary Information shall not be reproduced by any Receiving Party in any form except to the extent (i) necessary to comply with the provisions of Section 27.4.2 and Section 27.5 and (ii) reasonably necessary to perform its obligations under this Agreement. All such reproductions shall bear the same copyright and proprietary rights notices as are contained in or on the original.

27.3 Unless otherwise agreed, the obligations of confidentiality and non-use set forth in this Agreement do not apply to such Proprietary Information that:

27.3.1 Was at the time of receipt, already known to the Receiving Party, free of any obligation to keep confidential and evidenced by written records prepared prior to delivery by the Disclosing Party; or

27.3.2 Is, or becomes publicly known through no wrongful act of the Receiving Party; or

27.3.3 Is rightfully received from a Third Party having no direct or indirect secrecy or confidentiality obligation to the Disclosing Party with respect to such information; provided that such Receiving Party has exercised commercially reasonable efforts to determine whether such Third Party has any such obligation; or

27.3.4 Is independently developed by an agent, employee representative or Affiliate of the Receiving Party and such Party is not involved in any manner with the provision of services pursuant to this Agreement and does not have any direct or indirect access to the Proprietary Information; or

27.3.5 Is disclosed to a Third Party by the Disclosing Party without similar restrictions on such Third Party's rights; or

27.3.6 Is approved for release by written authorization of the Disclosing Party, but only to the extent of the authorization granted; or

27.3.7 Is required to be made public by the Receiving Party pursuant to Applicable Law or regulation, provided that such production or disclosure shall have been made in accordance with Section 27.4.2 or Section 27.5.

27.4 Proposed Disclosure of Proprietary Information to a Governmental Authority

27.4.1 If a Receiving Party desires to disclose or provide to a Commission, the FCC or any other Governmental Authority any Proprietary Information of the Disclosing Party, such Receiving Party shall, prior to and as a condition of such disclosure, (i) provide the Disclosing Party with written notice and the form of such proposed disclosure as soon as possible but in any event early enough to allow the Disclosing Party to protect its interests in the Proprietary Information to be disclosed and (ii) attempt to obtain in accordance with the applicable procedures of the intended recipient of such Proprietary Information an appropriate order for protective relief or other reliable assurance that confidential treatment shall be accorded to such Proprietary Information.

27.4.2 If a Receiving Party is required by any Governmental Authority or by Applicable Law to disclose any Proprietary Information, then such Receiving Party shall provide the Disclosing Party with written notice of such requirement as soon as possible, and in no event later than five (5) calendar days after receipt of such requirement, and prior to such disclosure. Upon receipt of written notice of the requirement to disclose Proprietary Information, the Disclosing Party at its expense, may then either seek appropriate protective relief in advance of such requirement to prevent all or part of such disclosure or waive the Receiving Party's compliance with this Section 27.4.2 with respect to all or part of such requirement.

27.4.3 The Receiving Party shall use all commercially reasonable efforts to cooperate with the Disclosing Party in attempting to obtain any protective relief which such Disclosing Party chooses to seek pursuant to this Section 27.4. In the absence of such relief, if the Receiving Party is legally compelled to disclose any Proprietary Information, then the Receiving Party shall exercise all commercially reasonable efforts to preserve the confidentiality of the Proprietary information, including cooperating with the Disclosing Party to obtain an appropriate order for protective relief or other reliable assurance that confidential treatment will be accorded the Proprietary Information.

27.5 Notwithstanding any of the foregoing, **SBC-13STATE** shall be entitled to disclose Proprietary Information on a confidential basis to regulatory agencies upon request for information as to **SBC-13STATE**'s activities under the Act and **SBC-13STATE** need not provide prior written notice of such disclosure to CLEC if **SBC-13STATE** has

obtained an appropriate order for protective relief or other reliable assurance that confidential treatment shall be accorded to such Proprietary Information.

27.6 Return of Proprietary Information

27.6.1 All Proprietary Information, other than Derivative Information, shall remain the property of the Disclosing Party, and all documents or other tangible media delivered to the Receiving Party that embody such Proprietary Information shall be, at the option of the Disclosing Party, either promptly returned to Disclosing Party or destroyed, except as otherwise may be required from time to time by Applicable Law (in which case the use and disclosure of such Proprietary Information will continue to be subject to this Agreement), upon the earlier of (i) the date on which the Receiving Party's need for it has expired and (ii) the expiration or termination of this Agreement.

27.6.2 At the request of the Disclosing Party, any Derivative Information shall be, at the option of the Receiving Party, either promptly returned to the Disclosing Party or destroyed, except as otherwise may be required from time to time by Applicable Law (in which case the use and disclosure of such Derivative Information will continue to be subject to this Agreement), upon the earlier of (i) the date on which the Receiving Party's need for it has expired and (ii) the expiration or termination of this Agreement.

27.6.3 The Receiving Party may at any time either return the Proprietary Information to the Disclosing Party or destroy such Proprietary Information. If the Receiving Party elects to destroy Proprietary Information, all copies of such information shall be destroyed and upon the written request of the Disclosing Party, the Receiving Party shall provide to the Disclosing Party written certification of such destruction. The destruction or return of Proprietary information shall not relieve any Receiving Party of its obligation to continue to treat such Proprietary Information in the manner required by this Agreement.

27.7 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, the Proprietary Information provisions of this Agreement shall apply to all information furnished by either Party to the other in furtherance of the purpose of this Agreement, even if furnished before the date of this Agreement and each Party's obligation to safeguard Proprietary Information disclosed prior to expiration or termination of this Agreement will survive such expiration or termination.

27.8 Pursuant to Section 222(b) of the Act, both Parties agree to limit their use of Proprietary Information received from the other to the permitted purposes identified in the Act.

- 27.9 Each Party has the right to refuse to accept any Proprietary Information under this Agreement, and nothing herein shall obligate either Party to disclose to the other Party any particular information.
- 27.10 The Parties agree that an impending or existing violation of any provision of this Section 27 would cause the Disclosing Party irreparable injury for which it would have no adequate remedy at law, and agree that Disclosing Party shall be entitled to obtain immediate injunctive relief prohibiting such violation, in addition to any other rights and remedies available to it at law or in equity, including both specific performance and monetary damages. In the event of any breach of this Section 27 for which legal or equitable relief is sought, all reasonable attorney's fees and other reasonable costs associated therewith shall be recoverable by the prevailing Party.

28. INTERVENING LAW

- 28.1 This Agreement is entered into as a result of both private negotiations between the Parties and the incorporation of some of the results of arbitration by the STATE COMMISSION. If the actions of the State of Illinois or federal legislative bodies, courts, or regulatory agencies of competent jurisdiction invalidate, modify, or stay the enforcement of laws or regulations that were the basis or rationale for a provision of the contract, the affected provision shall be invalidated, modified, or stayed, consistent with the action of the legislative body, court, or regulatory agency upon the written request of either party. In such event, the Parties shall expend diligent efforts to arrive at an agreement respecting the appropriate modifications to the Agreement. If negotiations fail, disputes between the Parties concerning the interpretation of the actions required or provisions affected by such governmental actions shall be resolved pursuant to the dispute resolution process provided for in this Agreement. Without limiting the general applicability of the foregoing, the Parties acknowledge that on January 25, 1999, the United States Supreme Court issued its opinion in *AT&T Corp. v. Iowa Utilities Bd.*, 119 S. Ct. 721 (1999) and on June 1, 1999, the United States Supreme Court issued its opinion in *Ameritech v. FCC*, No. 98-1381, 1999 WL 116994, 1999 Lexis 3671 (1999). The Parties further acknowledge and agree that by executing this Agreement, neither Party waives any of its rights, remedies, or arguments with respect to such decisions and any remand thereof, including its rights under this paragraph.

29. GOVERNING LAW

29.1 Unless otherwise provided by Applicable Law, this Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the Act, the FCC Rules and Regulations interpreting the Act and other applicable federal law. To the extent that federal law would apply state law in interpreting this Agreement, the domestic laws of the state in which the services, functions, facilities and products at issue are furnished or sought shall apply, without regard to that state's conflict of law principles. The Parties submit to personal jurisdiction in Little Rock, Arkansas; San Francisco, California; New Haven, Connecticut; Chicago, Illinois; Indianapolis, Indiana; Topeka, Kansas; Detroit, Michigan; St. Louis, Missouri; Reno, Nevada; Columbus, Ohio; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Dallas, Texas and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and waive any and all objection to any such venue.

30. REGULATORY APPROVAL

30.1 The Parties understand and agree that this Agreement and any amendment or modification hereto will be filed with the Commission for approval in accordance with Section 252 of the Act and may thereafter be filed with the FCC. The Parties believe in good faith and agree that the services to be provided under this Agreement are in the public interest. Each Party covenants and agrees to fully support approval of this Agreement by the Commission or the FCC under Section 252 of the Act without modification.

30.2 Unless otherwise agreed, if the Party responsible for filing this Agreement with the Commission fails to file the jointly signed Agreement with the Commission within forty-five (45) days following execution by both Parties, then the executed Agreement is rendered null and void. If the Agreement is rendered null and void, either Party may initiate negotiations for a new agreement.

31. CHANGES IN END USER LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE PROVIDER SELECTION

31.1 Prior to submitting an order under this Agreement, CLEC shall obtain End User authorization as required by applicable federal and state laws and regulations, and assumes responsibility for applicable charges as specified in Section 258(b) of the Act. **SBC-13STATE** shall abide by the same applicable laws and regulations.

31.2 Only an End User can initiate a challenge to a change in its local service provider. If an End User notifies **SBC-13STATE** or CLEC that the End User requests local exchange service, the Party receiving such request shall be free to provide service to such End User, except in those instances where the End User's account is local PIC protected. It

is the responsibility of the End User to provide authorization in a FCC approved format to the current provider of record to remove local service provider protection before any changes in local service provider are processed.

31.2.1 **SBC-13STATE** shall be free to connect an End User to any competitive local exchange carrier based upon that competitive local exchange carrier's request and that competitive local exchange carrier's assurance that proper End User authorization has been obtained. CLEC shall make any such authorization it has obtained available to **SBC-13STATE** upon request and at no charge.

31.2.2 The following applies to **AM-MI** only:

31.2.2.1 The Parties will adhere to the requirements adopted by the Commission in its Case No. U-11900 with respect to the selection of primary local exchange carriers and primary interexchange carriers.

31.3 When an End User changes or withdraws authorization, each Party shall release customer-specific facilities in accordance with the End User's direction or the direction of the End User's authorized agent. Further, when an End User abandons its premise, **SBC-13STATE** is free to reclaim the facilities for use by another customer and is free to issue service orders required to reclaim such facilities.

31.4 Neither Party shall be obligated by this Agreement to investigate any allegations of unauthorized changes in local exchange service (slamming) on behalf of the other Party or a Third Party. If **SBC-13STATE**, on behalf of CLEC, agrees to investigate an alleged incidence of slamming, **SBC-13STATE** shall charge CLEC an investigation fee as set forth in Appendix Pricing in the "Other (Resale)" category, listed as "Slamming Investigation Fee."

31.5 Should **SBC-13STATE** receive an order from CLEC for services under this Agreement, and **SBC-13STATE** is currently providing the same services to another local service provider for the same End User, CLEC agrees that **SBC-13STATE** may notify the local service provider from whom the End User is being converted of CLEC's order coincident with or following processing CLEC's order. It shall then be the responsibility of the former local service provider of record and CLEC to resolve any issues related to the End User. This Section 31.5 shall not apply to new or additional lines and services purchased by the End User from multiple CLECs or from **SBC-13STATE**.

31.5.1 If **SBC-13STATE** receives an order from another local service provider to convert services for an End User for whom CLEC is the current local service provider of record, and if CLEC already subscribes to the Local Disconnect

Report (“LDR”), described in Section 20.9, then **SBC-13STATE** shall notify CLEC of such order coincident with or following processing such order. It shall be the responsibility of CLEC and the other local service provider to resolve any issues related to the End User. This Section 31.5.1 shall not apply to new or additional lines and services purchased by an End User from multiple CLECs or from **SBC-13STATE**.

31.6 In addition to any other indemnity obligations in this Agreement or any Appendix attached to this Agreement, CLEC shall release, indemnify, hold harmless and defend **SBC-13STATE** against any and all liability and Claims, including reasonable attorney’s fees, which may result from **SBC-13STATE** acting under this Section 31.

31.7 Notwithstanding anything contained in this Section 31, nothing herein shall be interpreted or construed to apply to the transfer of provisioning of CLEC End Users’ accounts pursuant to Section 10.6.

31.8 When a End User changes its service provider from **SBC-13STATE** to CLEC or from CLEC to **SBC-13STATE** and does not retain its original telephone number, the Party formerly providing service to such End User shall furnish a referral announcement (“**Referral Announcement**”) on the original telephone number that specifies the End User’s new telephone number.

31.8.1 The following pertains to **AM-IL**, **AM-WI** and **PACIFIC** only:

31.8.1.1 Referral Announcements shall be provided by a Party to the other Party for the period of time and at the rates set forth in the referring Party’s tariff(s); provided, however, if either Party provides Referral Announcements for a period different (either shorter or longer) than the period(s) stated in its tariff(s) when its End Users change their telephone numbers, such Party shall provide the same level of service to End Users of the other Party.

31.8.2 The following applies to **AM-IN** only:

31.8.2.1 Referral Announcements shall be provided by a Party to the other Party for the period specified in 170 IAC 7-1.1-11(I)(3)(a) and (b) and at the rates set forth in the referring Party’s tariff(s). However, if either Party provides Referral Announcements for a period different than the above period(s) when its End Users change their telephone numbers, such Party shall provide the same level of service to End Users of the other Party.

31.8.3 The following applies to **AM-MI** only:

31.8.3.1 Referral Announcements shall be provided by a Party to the other Party for the period specified in Michigan Administrative Rule 484.134 and at the rates set forth in the referring Party's tariff(s). However, if either Party provides Referral Announcements for a period longer than the above period(s) when its End Users change their telephone numbers, such Party shall provide the same level of service to End Users of the other Party.

31.8.4 The following applies to **AM-OH** only:

31.8.4.1 Referral Announcements shall be provided by a Party to the other Party for the period of time specified in Rule 4901:1-5-12, Ohio Administrative Code and at the rates set forth in the referring Party's tariff(s). However, if either Party provides Referral Announcements for a period longer than the above period(s) when its End Users change their telephone numbers, such Party shall provide the same level of service to End Users of the other Party.

32. COMPLIANCE AND CERTIFICATION

- 32.1 Each Party shall comply at its own expense with all Applicable Laws that relate to that Party's obligations to the other Party under this Agreement. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as requiring or permitting either Party to contravene any mandatory requirement of Applicable Law.
- 32.2 CLEC warrants that it has obtained all necessary state certification required in each state covered by this Agreement prior to ordering any services, functions, facilities or products from **SBC-13STATE** pursuant to this Agreement. Upon request, CLEC shall provide proof of certification.
- 32.3 Each Party shall be responsible for obtaining and keeping in effect all approvals from, and rights granted by, Governmental Authorities, building and property owners, other carriers, and any other Third Parties that may be required in connection with the performance of its obligations under this Agreement.
- 32.4 Each Party represents and warrants that any equipment, facilities or services provided to the other Party under this Agreement comply with the CALEA.

33. LAW ENFORCEMENT

33.1 **SBC-12 STATE** and CLEC shall reasonably cooperate with the other Party in handling law enforcement requests as follows:

33.1.1 Intercept Devices:

33.1.1.1 Local and federal law enforcement agencies periodically request information or assistance from local telephone service providers. When either Party receives a request associated with an End User of the other Party, it shall refer such request to the Party that serves such End User, unless the request directs the receiving Party to attach a pen register, trap-and-trace or form of intercept on the Party's facilities, in which case that Party shall comply with any valid request.

33.1.2 Subpoenas:

33.1.2.1 If a Party receives a subpoena for information concerning an End User the Party knows to be an End User of the other Party, it shall refer the subpoena to the Requesting Party with an indication that the other Party is the responsible company, unless the subpoena requests records for a period of time during which the receiving Party was the End User's service provider, in which case that Party will respond to any valid request.

33.1.3 Emergencies:

33.1.3.1 If a Party receives a request from a law enforcement agency for a temporary number change, temporary disconnect, or one-way denial of outbound calls by the receiving Party's switch for an End User of the other Party, that Receiving Party will comply with a valid emergency request. However, neither Party shall be held liable for any claims or Losses arising from compliance with such requests on behalf of the other Party's End User and the Party serving such End User agrees to indemnify and hold the other Party harmless against any and all such claims or Losses.

33.2 **SNET** and CLEC shall reasonably cooperate with the other Party in handling law enforcement requests as follows:

33.2.1 Each of the Parties agree to comply with the applicable state and federal law enforcement authorities, laws, and requirements, including the CALEA, and to report to applicable State and Federal law enforcement authorities as required by law, the Telecommunications Services and related information provided by each of the Parties in Connecticut.

34. RELATIONSHIP OF THE PARTIES/INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR

34.1 Each Party is an independent contractor, and has and hereby retains the right to exercise full control of and supervision over its own performance of its obligations under this Agreement and retains full control over the employment, direction, compensation and discharge of its employees assisting in the performance of such obligations. Each Party and each Party's contractor(s) shall be solely responsible for all matters relating to payment of such employees, including the withholding or payment of all applicable federal, state and local income taxes, social security taxes and other payroll taxes with respect to its employees, as well as any taxes, contributions or other obligations imposed by applicable state unemployment or workers' compensation acts and all other regulations governing such matters. Each Party has sole authority and responsibility to hire, fire and otherwise control its employees.

34.2 Nothing contained herein shall constitute the Parties as joint venturers, partners, employees or agents of one another, and neither Party shall have the right or power to bind or obligate the other. Nothing herein will be construed as making either Party responsible or liable for the obligations and undertakings of the other Party. Except for provisions herein expressly authorizing a Party to act for another, nothing in this Agreement shall constitute a Party as a legal representative or agent of the other Party, nor shall a Party have the right or authority to assume, create or incur any liability or any obligation of any kind, express or implied, against or in the name or on behalf of the other Party unless otherwise expressly permitted by such other Party. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement, no Party undertakes to perform any obligation of the other Party, whether regulatory or contractual, or to assume any responsibility for the management of the other Party's business.

35. NO THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARIES; DISCLAIMER OF AGENCY

35.1 This Agreement is for the sole benefit of the Parties and their permitted assigns, and nothing herein expressed or implied shall create or be construed to create any Third Party beneficiary rights hereunder. This Agreement shall not provide any Person not a party hereto with any remedy, claim, liability, reimbursement, cause of action, or other right in excess of those existing without reference hereto.

36. ASSIGNMENT

- 36.1 CLEC may not assign or transfer (whether by operation of law or otherwise) this Agreement (or any rights or obligations hereunder) to a third person without the prior written consent of **SBC-13STATE**; provided that CLEC may assign or transfer this Agreement to its Affiliate by providing ninety (90) days' prior written notice to **SBC-13STATE** of such assignment or transfer; provided, further, that such assignment is not inconsistent with Applicable Law (including the Affiliate's obligation to obtain proper Commission certification and approvals) or the terms and conditions of this Agreement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, CLEC may not assign or transfer this Agreement (or any rights or obligations hereunder) to its Affiliate if that Affiliate is a party to a separate agreement with **SBC-13STATE** under Sections 251 and 252 of the Act. Any attempted assignment or transfer that is not permitted is void ab initio.
- 36.2 As a condition of any assignment or transfer of this Agreement (or any rights hereunder) that is permitted under or consented to by **SBC-13STATE** pursuant to this Section 36, CLEC agrees that any change, modification or other activity required for **SBC-13STATE** to accommodate or recognize the successor to or assignee of CLEC shall be a CLEC Change and shall be subject to Section 5.3. **SBC-13STATE** shall have no obligation to proceed with such activities nor shall any otherwise acceptable assignment or transfer be effective against **SBC-13STATE** until the Parties agree upon the charges that apply to such CLEC Change.
- 36.3 If during the Term, **SBC-13STATE** sells, assigns or otherwise transfers any ILEC Territory or ILEC Assets to a person other than an Affiliate or subsidiary, **SBC-13STATE** shall provide CLEC not less than ninety (90) days prior written notice of such sale, assignment or transfer. Upon the consummation of such sale, assignment or transfer, CLEC acknowledges that **SBC-13STATE** shall have no further obligations under this Agreement with respect to the ILEC Territories and/or ILEC Assets subject to such sale, assignment or transfer, and that CLEC must establish its own Section 251 and 252 arrangement with the successor to such ILEC Territory and/or ILEC Assets.

37. DELEGATION TO AFFILIATE

- 37.1 Each Party may without the consent of the other Party fulfill its obligations under this Agreement by itself or may cause its Affiliate(s) to take some or all of such actions to fulfill such obligations. Upon such delegation, the Affiliate shall become a primary obligor hereunder with respect to the delegated matter, but such delegation shall not relieve the delegating Party of its obligations as co-obligor hereunder. Any Party that elects to perform its obligations through an Affiliate shall cause its Affiliate to take all action necessary for the performance of such Party's obligations hereunder. Each Party represents and warrants that if an obligation under this Agreement is to be performed by

an Affiliate, such Party has the authority to cause such Affiliate to perform such obligation and such Affiliate will have the resources required to accomplish the delegated performance.

38. SUBCONTRACTING

- 38.1 If a Party retains or engages any subcontractor to perform any of that Party's obligations under this Agreement, that Party will remain fully responsible for the performance of this Agreement in accordance with its terms, including any obligations that Party performs through subcontractors.
- 38.2 Each Party will be solely responsible for payments due that Party's subcontractors.
- 38.3 No subcontractor will be deemed a Third Party beneficiary for any purposes under this Agreement.
- 38.4 No contract, subcontract or other agreement entered into by either Party with any Third Party in connection with the provision of services, functions, facilities and products hereunder will provide for any indemnity, guarantee or assumption of liability by the other Party to this Agreement with respect to such arrangement, except as consented to in writing by the other Party.
- 38.5 Any subcontractor that gains access to Customer Proprietary Network Information ("CPNI") or Proprietary Information covered by this Agreement shall be required by the subcontracting Party to protect such CPNI or Proprietary Information to the same extent the subcontracting Party is required to protect such CPNI or Proprietary Information under the terms of this Agreement.

39. FORCE MAJEURE

- 39.1 No Party shall be responsible for delays or failures in performance of any part of this Agreement (other than an obligation to make money payments) resulting from acts or occurrences beyond the reasonable control of such Party, including acts of nature, acts of civil or military authority, any law, order, regulation, ordinance of any Governmental Authority, embargoes, epidemics, terrorist acts, riots, insurrections, fires, explosions, earthquakes, nuclear accidents, hurricanes, floods, work stoppages, equipment failures, cable cuts, power blackouts, volcanic action, other major environmental disturbances, unusually severe weather conditions, inability to secure products or services of other persons or transportation facilities or acts or omissions of transportation carriers (individually or collectively, a "**Force Majeure Event**") or any Delaying Event caused by the other Party or any other circumstances beyond the Party's reasonable control. If a Force Majeure Event shall occur, the Party affected shall give prompt notice to the

other Party of such Force Majeure Event specifying the nature, date of inception and expected duration of such Force Majeure Event, whereupon such obligation or performance shall be suspended to the extent such Party is affected by such Force Majeure Event during the continuance thereof or be excused from such performance depending on the nature, severity and duration of such Force Majeure Event (and the other Party shall likewise be excused from performance of its obligations to the extent such Party's obligations relate to the performance so interfered with). The affected Party shall use its reasonable efforts to avoid or remove the cause of nonperformance and the Parties shall give like notice and proceed to perform with dispatch once the causes are removed or cease.

40. TAXES

- 40.1 Each Party services under this Agreement shall pay or otherwise be responsible for all federal, state, or local sales, use, excise, gross receipts, municipal fees, transfer, transaction or similar taxes, fees, or surcharges (hereinafter "Tax") imposed on, or with respect to, the services under this Agreement provided by or to such Party, except for (a) any Tax on either party's corporate existence, status, or income or (b) any corporate franchise Taxes. Whenever possible, Taxes shall be billed as a separate item on the invoice.
- 40.2 With respect to any purchase of services under this Agreement if any Tax is required or permitted by Applicable Law to be collected from the purchasing Party by the providing Party, then: (i) the providing Party shall bill the purchasing Party for such Tax; (ii) the purchasing Party shall remit such Tax to the providing Party; and (iii) the providing Party shall remit such collected Tax to the applicable taxing authority. Failure to include Taxes on an invoice or to state a Tax separately shall not impair the obligation of the purchasing Party to pay any Tax. Nothing shall prevent the providing Party from paying any Tax to the appropriate taxing authority prior to the time: (1) it bills the purchasing Party for such Tax, or (2) it collects the Tax from the purchasing Party. Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, the purchasing Party shall be liable for and the providing Party may collect Taxes which were assessed by or paid to an appropriate taxing authority within the statute of limitations period but not included on an invoice within four (4) years after the Tax otherwise was owed or due.
- 40.3 With respect to any purchase hereunder of services under this Agreement that are resold to a third party, if any Tax is imposed by Applicable Law on the End User in connection with any such purchase, then: (i) the purchasing Party shall be required to impose and/or collect such Tax from the End User; and (ii) the purchasing Party shall remit such Tax to the applicable taxing authority. The purchasing Party agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the providing Party for any costs incurred by the providing Party as a result of actions taken by the applicable taxing authority to collect the Tax

from the providing Party due to the failure of the purchasing Party to pay or collect and remit such tax to such authority.

- 40.4 If the providing Party fails to bill or to collect any Tax as required herein, then, as between the providing Party and the purchasing Party: (i) the purchasing Party shall remain liable for such uncollected Tax; and (ii) the providing Party shall be liable for any penalty and interest assessed with respect to such uncollected Tax by such authority. However, if the purchasing Party fails to pay any Taxes properly billed, then, as between the providing Party and the purchasing Party, the purchasing Party will be solely responsible for payment of the Taxes, penalty and interest.
- 40.5 If the purchasing Party fails to impose and/or collect any Tax from End Users as required herein, then, as between the providing Party and the purchasing Party, the purchasing Party shall remain liable for such uncollected Tax and any interest and penalty assessed thereon with respect to the uncollected Tax by the applicable taxing authority. With respect to any Tax that the purchasing Party has agreed to pay or impose on and/or collect from End Users, the purchasing Party agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the providing Party for any costs incurred by the providing Party as a result of actions taken by the applicable taxing authority to collect the Tax from the providing Party due to the failure of the purchasing Party to pay or collect and remit such Tax to such authority.
- 40.6 If either Party is audited by a taxing authority or other Governmental Authority, the other Party agrees to reasonably cooperate with the Party being audited in order to respond to any audit inquiries in a proper and timely manner so that the audit and/or any resulting controversy may be resolved expeditiously.
- 40.7 To the extent a sale is claimed to be for resale and thus subject to tax exemption, the purchasing Party shall furnish the providing Party a proper resale tax exemption certificate as authorized or required by statute or regulation of the jurisdiction providing said resale tax exemption. Failure to timely provide said resale tax exemption certificate will result in no exemption being available to the purchasing Party for any period prior to the date that the purchasing Party presents a valid certificate. If Applicable Law excludes or exempts a purchase of services under this Agreement from a Tax, but does not also provide an exemption procedure, then the providing Party will not collect such Tax if the purchasing Party (a) furnishes the providing Party with a letter signed by an officer of the purchasing Party claiming an exemption and identifying the Applicable Law that both allows such exemption and does not require an exemption certificate; and (b) supplies the providing Party with an indemnification agreement, reasonably acceptable to the providing Party, which holds the providing Party harmless from any tax, interest, penalties, loss, cost or expense with respect to forbearing to collect such Tax.

- 40.8 With respect to any Tax or Tax controversy covered by this Section 40, the purchasing Party is entitled to contest with the imposing jurisdiction, pursuant to Applicable Law and at its own expense, any Tax that it is ultimately obligated to pay or collect. The purchasing Party will ensure that no lien is attached to any asset of the providing Party as a result of any contest. The purchasing Party shall be entitled to the benefit of any refund or recovery of amounts that it had previously paid resulting from such a contest. Amounts previously paid by the providing Party shall be refunded to the providing Party. The providing Party will cooperate in any such contest.
- 40.9 All notices, affidavits, exemption certificates or other communications required or permitted to be given by either Party to the other under this Section 40 shall be sent in accordance with Section 24 hereof.

41. NON-WAIVER

- 41.1 Except as otherwise specified in this Agreement, no waiver of any provision of this Agreement and no consent to any default under this Agreement shall be effective unless the same is in writing and properly executed by or on behalf of the Party against whom such waiver or consent is claimed. Waiver by either Party of any default by the other Party shall not be deemed a waiver of any other default. Failure of either Party to insist on performance of any term or condition of this Agreement or to exercise any right or privilege hereunder shall not be construed as a continuing or future waiver of such term, condition, right or privilege. No course of dealing or failure of any Party to strictly enforce any term, right, or condition of this Agreement in any instance shall be construed as a general waiver or relinquishment of such term, right or condition.

42. CUSTOMER INQUIRIES

- 42.1 Each Party will refer all questions regarding the other Party's services or products directly to the other Party at a telephone number specified by that Party.
- 42.2 Each Party will ensure that all of its representatives who receive inquiries regarding the other Party's services:
- 42.2.1 Provide the number described in Section 44.1 to callers who inquire about the other Party's services or products; and
- 42.2.2 Do not in any way disparage or discriminate against the other Party or its products or services.
- 42.3 Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, CLEC shall be the primary point of contact for CLEC's End Users with respect to the services CLEC provides such End Users.

- 42.4 CLEC acknowledges that **SBC-13STATE** may, upon End User request, provide services directly to such End User similar to those offered to CLEC under this Agreement.

43. EXPENSES

- 43.1 Except as expressly set forth in this Agreement, each Party will be solely responsible for its own expenses involved in all activities related to the matters covered by this Agreement.
- 43.2 **SBC-12STATE** and CLEC shall each be responsible for one-half (1/2) of expenses payable to a Third Party for Commission fees or other charges (including regulatory fees and any costs of notice or publication, but not including attorney's fees) associated with the filing of this agreement.

44. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- 44.1 The Parties represent that no employee or agent of either Party has been or will be employed, retained, paid a fee, or otherwise received or will receive any personal compensation or consideration from the other Party, or any of the other Party's employees or agents in connection with the negotiation of this Agreement or any associated documents.

45. AMENDMENTS AND MODIFICATIONS

- 45.1 No provision of this Agreement shall be deemed amended or modified by either Party unless such an amendment or modification is in writing, dated, and signed by an authorized representative of both Parties. The rates, terms and conditions contained in the amendment shall become effective upon approval of such amendment by the appropriate Commissions.
- 45.2 Neither Party shall be bound by any preprinted terms additional to or different from those in this Agreement that may appear subsequently in the other Party's form documents, purchase orders, quotations, acknowledgments, invoices or other communications.

46. IN-REGION MOST FAVORED NATIONS (MFN) BETWEEN SBC STATES

- 46.1 Subject to the conditions and limitations specified in Paragraph 43 of the SBC/Ameritech Merger Conditions¹, SBC-13STATE shall make available to any requesting telecommunication carrier in the SBC/Ameritech Area within any SBC/Ameritech State any interconnection arrangement or UNE in the SBC/Ameritech Service Area within any other SBC/Ameritech state that (1) was negotiated with a telecommunications carrier, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252(a)(1), by an SBC/Ameritech incumbent LEC that at all times during the interconnection agreement negotiations was an affiliate of SBC and (2) has been made available under an agreement to which SBC/Ameritech is a party.
- 46.2 The Parties acknowledge and agree that it may require additional time to implement an interconnection arrangement or UNE ported from one SBC state to another SBC state pursuant to Paragraph 43 of the SBC/Ameritech Merger Conditions. Thus, when a CLEC exercises its option to adopt an interconnection arrangement or UNE in accordance with Paragraph 43 of the SBC/Ameritech Merger Conditions, the Parties shall meet within thirty (30) days of state commission approval of the interconnection agreement or amendment containing such interconnection arrangement and/or UNE to agree upon an implementation schedule for such interconnection arrangement and/or UNE.
- 46.3 Paragraph 43 of the SBC/Ameritech Merger Conditions as well as this Section 45 shall expire the earliest of October 8, 2002 or the termination date outlined in section 5 of the General Terms and Conditions of this Agreement, whichever is earlier.

47. SURVIVAL

- 47.1 The Parties' obligations under this Agreement which by their nature are intended to continue beyond the termination or expiration of this Agreement shall survive the termination or expiration of this Agreement. Without limiting the general applicability of the foregoing, the following terms and conditions of this Agreement are specifically agreed by the Parties to continue beyond the termination or expiration of this Agreement: Section 11.8; Section 11.9, Section 31.6; Section 15.3; Section 9.1; Section 9.2; Section 9.3; Section 9.4; Section 9.5, Section 9.6; Section 10.2; Section

¹ See the FCC's Memorandum Opinion and Order approving the SBC/Ameritech Merger Conditions, *In re Applications of Ameritech Corp., Transferor and SBC Communications, Inc., Transferee, For Consent to Transfer Control of Corporations Holding Commission Licenses and Lines Pursuant to Sections 214 and 310(d) of the Communications Act and Parts 5, 22, 24, 25, 63, 90, 95 and 101 of the Commission's Rules*, CC Docket 98-141, issued on October 8, 1999 ("FCC 99-279).

10.3; Section 10.4; Section 10.5; Section 10.6; Section 15; Section 16; Section 18; Section 19; Section 21 Section 22; Section 23; Section 26; Section 25; Section 27; Section 33; Section 42.4, Section 28; Section 29; Section 40; Section 6.5; Section 6.6; Section 6.7; Section 6.8; Section 6.9; Section 6.10 and Section 46.

48. APPENDICES INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

48.1 Directory Assistance (DA)

48.1.1 **SBC-13STATE** will provide nondiscriminatory access to Directory Assistance services under the terms and conditions identified in the applicable Appendix DA, which **is/are** attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

48.2 Operator Services (OS)

48.2.1 **SBC-13STATE** shall provide nondiscriminatory access to Operator Services under the terms and conditions identified in the applicable Appendix OS, which **is/are** attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

48.3 Operations Support Systems (OSS)

48.3.1 **SBC-13STATE** shall provide nondiscriminatory access to Operations Support Systems (OSS) “functions” to CLEC for pre-ordering, ordering, provisioning, maintenance/repair, and billing under the terms and conditions identified in the applicable Appendix OSS, which **is/are** attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

49. AUTHORITY

49.1 Each of the **SBC**-owned ILEC(s) for which this Agreement is executed represents and warrants that it is a corporation duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of its state of incorporation. Each of the **SBC**-owned ILEC(s) for which this Agreement is executed represents and warrants that SBC Telecommunications, Inc. has full power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement as agent for that **SBC**-owned ILEC. Each of the **SBC**-owned ILEC(s) for which this Agreement is executed represents and warrants that it has full power and authority to perform its obligations hereunder.

49.2 CLEC represents and warrants that it is a corporation duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the State of Illinois and has full power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement and to perform its obligations hereunder. CLEC represents and warrants that it has been or will be certified as a LEC by the

Commission(s) prior to submitting any orders hereunder and is or will be authorized to provide the Telecommunications Services contemplated hereunder in the territory contemplated hereunder prior to submission of orders for such services.

- 49.3 Each Person whose signature appears below represents and warrants that he or she has authority to bind the Party on whose behalf he or she has executed this Agreement.

50. COUNTERPARTS

- 50.1 This Agreement may be executed in counterparts. Each counterpart shall be considered an original and such counterparts shall together constitute one and the same instrument.

51. ENTIRE AGREEMENT

51.1 SBC-12STATE

- 51.1.1 The terms contained in this Agreement and any Appendices, Attachments, Exhibits, Schedules, and Addenda constitute the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof, superseding all prior understandings, proposals and other communications, oral or written.

51.2 SNET

- 51.2.1 The terms contained in this Agreement and any Appendices, Attachments, Exhibits, Schedules, Addenda, Commission approved tariffs and other documents or instruments referred to herein and incorporated into this Agreement by reference constitute the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof, superseding all prior understandings, proposals and other communications, oral or written.

SBC-13 STATE Resale Agreement Signatures

Midwestern Telecommunications Inc.

**Illinois Bell Telephone Company, Indiana
Bell Telephone Company Incorporated,
Michigan Bell Telephone Company, and
Wisconsin Bell Inc. d/b/a Ameritech
Wisconsin, by SBC Telecommunications, Inc.,
its authorized agent**

Signature: _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____
(Print or Type)

Name: _____

Title: _____
(Print or Type)

Title: President - Industry Markets

Date: _____

Date: _____

AECN/OCN# 7996
(Facility Based – if applicable)